

# V+H MAGAZINE

# REACHING THE 1900

## SHINING THE LIGHT OF JESUS AMONG THE LEAST REACHED

"...FROM EVERY NATION, TRIBE, PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE,..." — REV 7:9 (NIV)

**REACH BEYOND**  
VOICE+HANDS, TOGETHER

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- VOICE | REACHING SARA WITH THE LOVE OF CHRIST**
- HANDS | THE FORGOTTEN: AN UPDATE ON THE ROHINGYA MEDICAL OUTREACH**

# All of us have a role to play.

Dear friends of Reach Beyond,

A few months ago, Becky and I had a brief overnight in a country that's known for being resistant to the Christian faith and closed to traditional missionary work. As we made our way through passport control and customs, I found myself wondering about the people around me. "What have they heard about Jesus? Have they ever considered that He might be more than a prophet?"

After we collected our bags, Becky and I looked for a place to satisfy our coffee craving. Of course, the omnipresent Starbucks was nowhere to be found. After scouring the terminal, we managed to locate a small coffee shop at the end of the arrivals hall. The barista didn't understand much English, but he knew enough to take our orders. With a warm Americano in our hands, we settled down at a table to discuss how we were going to get to our hotel. As we talked, some soft music was playing in the background. After a few minutes of half-engaged listening, we suddenly recognized a familiar tune. It was a Christian worship song by Phil Wickham. When that song ended, there was a song by Lauren Daigle. I couldn't believe it! The coffee shop was playing a Christian radio station! I don't know if it was being broadcasted via shortwave or if it was streaming on the internet. Didn't matter. What I do know, is that the black-shrouded ladies sitting next to us were sipping their lattes while hearing about Jesus!

It never ceases to amaze me that Jesus keeps showing up in the world's hardest-to-reach places and among the world's least-reached people. Our job at Reach Beyond isn't to bring Jesus to the darkness – He's already there! Our job is to find Him and fan the flame so others can see.



**ACTS 1:8 (ESV)**

“...you will be

*"But you will receive power when  
witnesses in Jerusalem*

Voice + Hands Magazine is produced quarterly by Reach Beyond.

OUR VISION





To see Jesus known and loved among all people. - REVELATION 7:9

REACH BEYOND

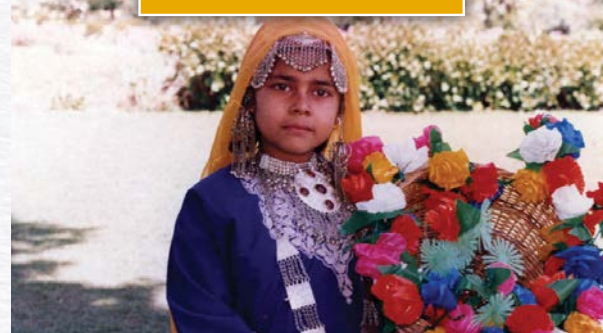
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PRAYING FOR THE



KASHMIRI

Country: India  
Population: 6.8 million  
Religion: Islam  
Evangelical: 0%

What has God placed on your heart regarding the unreached? Some go. Some send. Some pray. Some give.

Our staff talks a lot about UPGs (unreached people groups), but what exactly is a UPG? More than 2,000 years into the Great Commission, how are there still entire cultures that are unreached? And what do we see as our role in bringing the gospel to these UPGs? The cover story in this issue breaks down this topic.

As you read this, what is the Holy Spirit saying to you? What has God placed on your heart regarding the unreached? All of us have a role to play. Some go. Some send. Some pray. Some give.

In His Great Commission, Jesus commanded us to “go and make disciples of all nations” or people groups (Matthew 28:19, NIV).

This is our challenge. This is our call.

Thank you for the important role that you play in ensuring that individuals “from every nation, tribe, people and language [will one day stand] before the throne” in worship (Revelation 7:9, NIV).



Steve Harling  
President

my witnesses...”

*the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

# Reaching SARA WITH THE LOVE OF Christ

Sara is a 30-year-old Arab woman. As such, she represents a very marginalized demographic and holds little worth in her community. She may or may not be married, may or may not have children. She doesn't know the love and saving grace of Jesus.

In September, our Arabic media partner launched a new ministry to reach "Sara," the name given to the ministry's target demographic. All content is focused on speaking to Sara. It is the first and only 24-7 Christian media program exclusively for Arab women. The impact of the ministry launch has been immediate, as a number of Saras from the Arabic-speaking world have listened and responded. Weekly social media engagement is at more than 180,000, with more than 10,000 followers representing 20 Arabic-speaking countries. Of the followers, 98% are women, mostly aged 25-34.

As our regional director in the area says, "Living behind a veil publicly all your life affects how you feel about yourself. We want these women to see their worth before their Creator."

Women represent 65% of the Arab world's population, but they are largely underestimated and often neglected. What women lack in community standing, they make up for in influence. Women tend to be more spiritually open, and they usually decide what media plays in their home. If she is listening, the rest of the house is listening. And she is more likely to share it with her friends, as the social media numbers can attest. Our director says, "Most Arab children are taught on the knee of their mother. Therefore, it is important to reach her."

The work happening right now through the Arabic media programming for women demonstrates the power of partnership. Our partner already had many tools in place, but after a few introductions, it was obvious that we shared the same

philosophy and calling for the unreached. Reach Beyond could provide financial support, production and training, while our partner could provide the media platform and follow-up. The collaboration has had a multiplication effect.

"The follow-up component was very important to us. We aren't just broadcasting the gospel to the masses, but there is also the 1:1 relationship. When a listener or social media follower responds, the follow-up comes from someone within their culture, someone who speaks their heart language. The discipleship piece is vital," says the director.

## JESUS CAME TO RESCUE AND SAVE, NOT TO CONDEMN

Layia, a beautiful married woman with two children, came to our partner through the social media page. Although she wore the hijab in the presence of any male outside of her immediate family, men were attracted to her. She eventually betrayed her husband. Although she felt shame and wanted to stop, she didn't know how.

When Layia reached out, our partner spoke with her about the source of sin and the message of salvation. They explained that in order to stop our sinful ways, we have to accept the work of God in our lives. We can't do it without Him.

"We sent her the story of Jesus' encounter with the woman caught in adultery. The story showed how Jesus dealt with her without condemning her, even though all the people were ready to persecute her. We told her that Jesus did not come to condemn people, but to rescue them and save them," our partner said. "So, we asked her if she believed in what Jesus did on the cross. She said yes. We prayed together, and she gave her life to Christ."

## SAVED BY GRACE, NOT BY WORKS

Aquila\* reached out to our partner with many questions. An educated woman and a professor, Aquila is married, but she does not have joy. She has financial stress, the people in her life make her feel depressed, and God has not yet given her children. She also feels like God is sometimes angry with her because she does not perform her religious duties as she should. In her culture, a person earns forgiveness through favor and sacrificial work.

“I asked her what she thinks is required by God in order for Him to love her, and then I explained the story of sin, salvation and God’s redemption of mankind. She liked what I said. She admitted that her ideas were mixed up and that our words were healing her soul,” our partner said. “She asked me how to become a child of God and asked for continued conversation.”

## MEETING THE NEEDS OF EVERYDAY LIFE

The programming addresses everyday life with a Christian perspective and women are responding. The ministry received 1,900 private messages through its social media channel in just the first two weeks of broadcasting.

A 25-year-old physical therapist contacted the ministry and asked for help to solve an issue between her and her mother. The mother is pressuring the woman to get married, believing her daughter is getting too old. This has caused the woman to lose confidence in herself and hate her life. The partner worked to build trust and encourage the woman in practical ways.

Another woman lost her father when she was a child. She tries to fill the void by falling in love with any man who gets close, and consequently, has been deeply hurt many times. The partner is guiding her in a process of inner healing to be able to walk in the correct path and make better choices.

Other women talk about marriage trouble and pain in life. They bring their burdens and open up about considering suicide and divorce. They ask questions about sin and God’s judgment. They reach out and hear a story about grace freely given, redemption and love. They express thanks that there is programming just for women.

## GOD IS MOVING AMONG THE ARABIC WORLD

More than 400 million people in 22 countries speak Arabic. There is a hunger and a thirst for the Voice of Truth, but there aren’t enough witnesses. Media helps to cover the gaps.

“It is a lie of the enemy that Arabs don’t like Christians,” said the partner. “They have rejected the traditional church, but they love Jesus. There is more openness to the gospel now than there has been in the last 500 years. We just need the resources.” ■

*\*names changed for security and privacy*

### JOHN 8:10-11 (NIV)

“... ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ She said, ‘No one, Lord.’ ...”

*“Jesus stood up and said to her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ She said, ‘No one, Lord.’ And Jesus said, ‘Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.’”*

# GIVE, GO, & PRAY.

**GIVE:** By giving to the work of Reach Beyond, you can support outreach like our Arabic media programming, so that the Good News is proclaimed among the least reached.

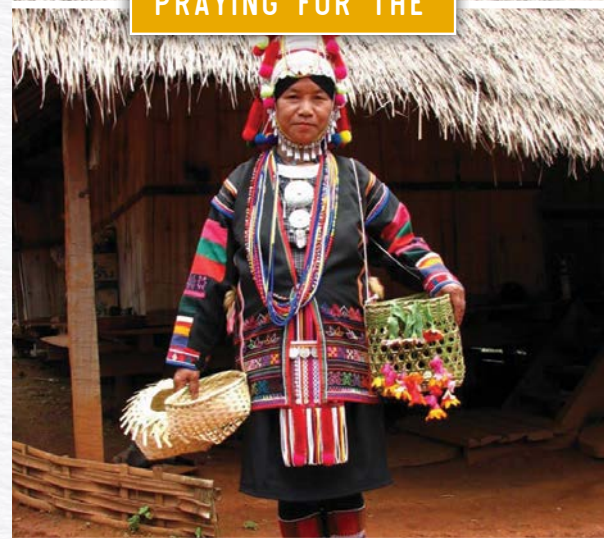
Visit [reachbeyond.org/give](https://reachbeyond.org/give) and donate today.

**GO:** Spots are still open in our 2019 VOICE Internship for students and young professionals. You will get hands on experience building media content to help reach the unreached through broadcast media.

To learn more, visit [reachbeyond.org/internship](https://reachbeyond.org/internship)

**PRAY:** Pray for the women listening to our media programs to have hearts open for the gospel. Pray that this ministry will have an impact not only in their life, but will help to bring entire families to Christ.

### PRAYING FOR THE



## AKHA

Country: Laos  
Population: 111,000  
Religion: Ethnic Religions  
Evangelical: 2%

## BURMESE

Country: Myanmar (Burma)  
Population: 31 million  
Religion: Buddhism  
Evangelical: 0.08%



# REACHING THE 19000

## SHINING THE LIGHT OF JESUS AMONG THE LEAST REACHED

His story took an hour to be told. The ugly scars on his arm and leg confirmed his story of being harshly tortured for his faith. Abu\* had once been a devout and accomplished Koranic scholar. One afternoon, while praying, he was stunned by a powerful vision. The instructions from the brilliant figure standing before him were clear and unequivocal: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. Go and tell everyone."

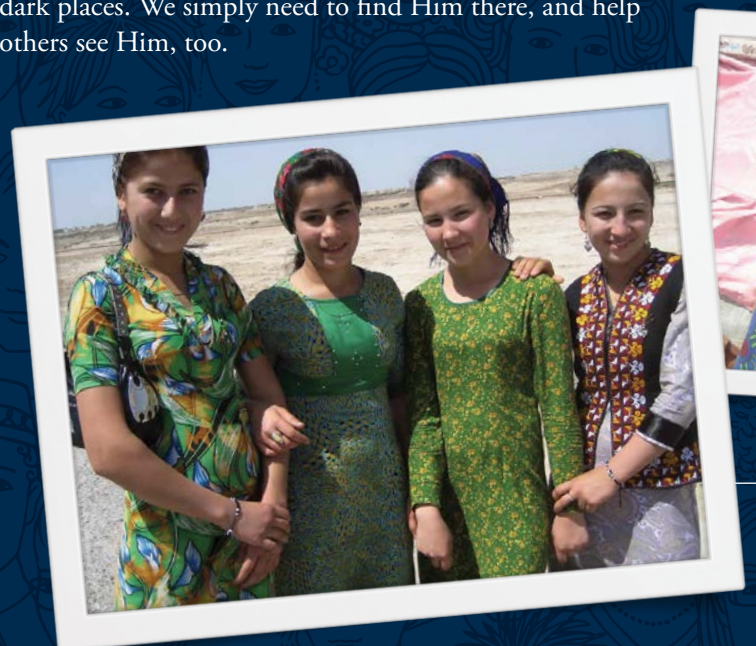
That evening he told his friends that he had been visited by Jesus. They were horrified and accused him of being crazy. He told his extended family. They offered him the handsome reward of a house and a motorbike if he would stop talking nonsense. "All I want is Jesus," was his reply.

When the bribery didn't work, his former friends and colleagues began to threaten, "If you don't stop talking about Jesus, we will have to do to you what Jesus' enemies did to him."

For 48 days, Abu was tied up with ropes and provided with little to eat or drink. He was beaten with metal rods and thrashed with live electrical wires. Still, Abu would not relent. Late one afternoon, four of his friends planted drugs in his room and called the police. By the time the authorities had arrived to arrest him, the white powder had miraculously turned into black charcoal. In a final act of desperation, Abu was forced by his former friends to drink poisoned mango juice. Miraculously, the poison did him no harm.

Because of all of the miraculous interventions of protection on Abu's life, much attention has been focused on his faith. All four of the guys that planted drugs in his room have now come to believe in Christ. Over the last two years since his visit with Jesus, Abu has led 45 friends and family members to faith in Jesus.

Abu's life is still under constant threat. There's a price on his head. But his story, and others like his, offer further evidence that we serve a God who is alive and active throughout the world. We don't need to bring Jesus to dark places. We simply need to find Him there, and help others see Him, too.



# “...go and make disciples of all nations...”

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

## WHY FOCUS ON UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS?

Reach Beyond’s vision is to see Jesus known and loved among all people groups. When Jesus commanded His followers to “make disciples of all nations” in Matthew 28:19, He was not referring to political nations. The word Jesus used for nations in Greek is “ethne,” from which we get the English word “ethnic.” Jesus commanded us to make disciples from every ethnic people group. Until we accomplish this, the task is unfinished.

A people group is considered unreached if two percent or less of the population identifies as evangelical. They are without an indigenous, self-propagating Christian church movement, unable to support growth without outside intervention. Of course, sometimes the intervention comes from Jesus Himself, appearing in dreams and visions, like He did for Abu. But Jesus also asked us to go and tell.

According to Joshua Project, there are still 7,000 people groups considered unreached, making up over 40 percent of the world’s population. “With the mass-media tools in our toolkit, we believe God has uniquely called and equipped us to bring the message of Jesus to the 1,900 largest of these unreached people groups, each with a population of 100,000 or more,” says Steve Harling, president of Reach Beyond. “Of course, we can’t do it by ourselves.”



### SOMALI

Country: Somalia  
Population: 10.6 million  
Religion: Islam  
Evangelical: 0%

## WHY ARE THERE STILL UNREACHED PEOPLES?

In 2019, more than 2,000 years into the Great Commission, how are there still unreached peoples? After years and years of missions, with radio broadcasts and internet, how can there still be entire groups that are unreached with the gospel, let alone more than 7,000?

There are many reasons. Some people groups are still physically hard to reach, either because of geography or government barriers. While it is hard to imagine our life without the internet, a little less than half of the world’s population does not have online access, meaning people groups can’t even be reached virtually. And many of the unreached people groups are hostile to the gospel, as was the case in Abu’s community. The local laws or culture make evangelism illegal and dangerous.

“I am very much aware, that there is significant opposition to the gospel in many of the places where Reach Beyond seeks to make disciples. Those who become followers of Jesus are subjected to severe suffering and rejection,” says Steve. “In a remote village in West Africa, I recently asked a gathering of pastors and evangelists, ‘Have any of you been beaten for your faith?’ The response was unanimous: Hands went up. Voices cried out: ‘Oui!’ One pastor then explained, ‘We can handle the beatings. That’s not a problem. It’s the abandonment of our families that hurts the most.’”

Another obstacle is Bible access. In order to make a disciple of Jesus, the Scriptures need to be available in the heart language of the people. Wycliffe Bible Translators estimate that about 1,600 languages still have translation needs. Even if the Scriptures are available, an estimated one billion adults are considered illiterate with the highest

### TURKMEN, TRUKHMENY

Country: Turkmenistan  
Population: 4.8 million  
Religion: Islam  
Evangelical: 0%

concentrations of illiteracy in the Arab states, South and West Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. And despite literacy, an estimated 70% of the unreached peoples of the world are considered oral learners, not written. That is why Reach Beyond's broadcast ministry to these areas is so vital. If they cannot read the gospel, they can at least hear it.

Finally, there is the obstacle of having enough resources to share the gospel. Joshua Project estimates that 81% of all Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists do not know a single Christian. For every dollar of Christian resources spent on ministry, less than one penny is directed at reaching unreached peoples. These groups do not have access to Christians, and we aren't spending enough money to send them a witness.

### A NEW OLD WAY OF REACHING UPGS

When Jesus sent out the 72, He instructed them to go out in teams of two to every town and place ahead of Him, saying,

“When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’” – Luke 10:5-9

In Central Asia, Reach Beyond workers are living out these instructions, going in small teams to live among an unreached people group (UPG) and looking for “people of peace.” They use the tools of medical, media and community development to make Jesus known among the people.

“This team has gained a foothold for the gospel by demonstrating the love of Jesus through clean water projects, medical caravans, and the training of medical practitioners,” says Steve. “We are praying for 300 more workers just like them!”

Reach Beyond has an opportunity to make real impact among the 1,900. Currently, we have a potential engagement among 32% of the 1,900 UPGs through media, medical and community development outreach. Our shortwave programming in Asia Pacific alone is being broadcast in 17 languages, potentially reaching 442 UPGs and 939 million people!

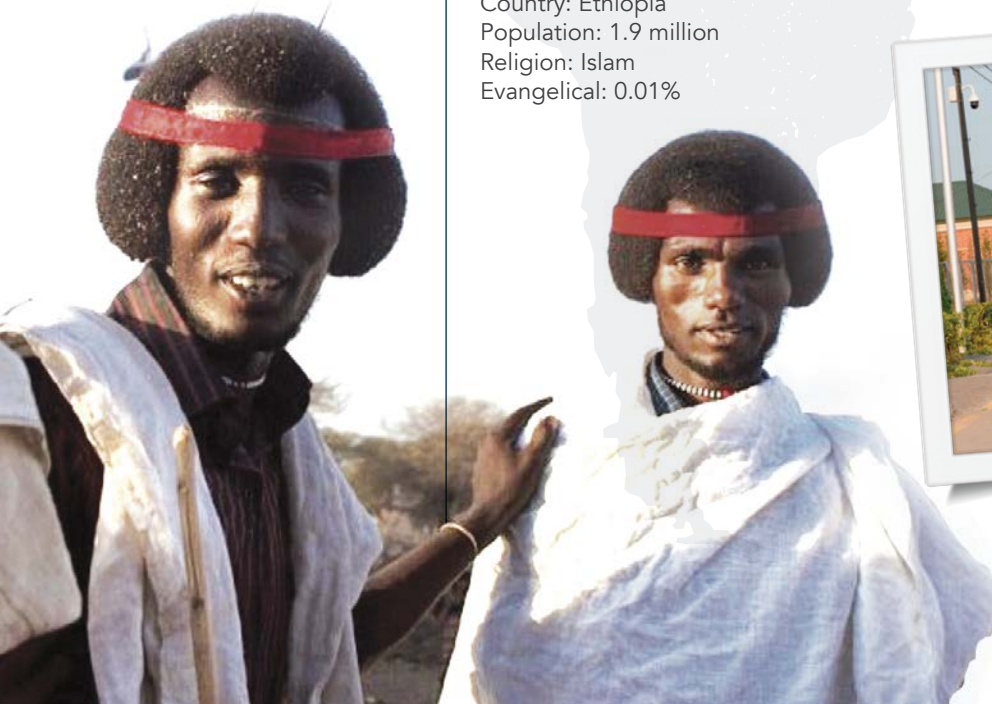
Reach Beyond's international leadership team has identified 30 UPGs that are high on our priority list for 2019. With these people groups, we're asking God to raise up teams of disciple-makers who will go and (wherever possible) live among these unreached peoples.

“The concept of incarnational teams living among UPG's is new for us,” says Steve, “but it's the model that Jesus laid out for His disciples. We think it's a necessary strategy for making Jesus known today.” ■

*\*name changed for security*

### AFAR

Country: Ethiopia  
Population: 1.9 million  
Religion: Islam  
Evangelical: 0.01%



### AZERI

Country: Azerbaijan  
Population: 8.7 million  
Religion: Islam  
Evangelical: 0.22%



**JAPANESE**

Country: Japan  
 Population: 122 million  
 Religion: Buddhism  
 Evangelical: 0.30%



**7000**

UPGs STILL UNREACHED

**LUKE 10:2 (NIV)**

“...send out workers into his harvest field.”

*“He told them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”*

**GIVE, GO, & PRAY.**

**GIVE:** Are you passionate about seeing Jesus known and loved among the least reached? Join us as a +partner by making a monthly, recurring donation to the work of Reach Beyond. We are trusting God to bring us 1900 +partners to represent the 1900 UPGs we are called to serve.

Sign up today at [reachbeyond.org/+partner](http://reachbeyond.org/+partner).

**GO:** Do you feel God calling you to serve in missions among the unreached? Whether you are interested in short-term opportunities or a career in missions, we would like to talk to you.

Visit [reachbeyond.org/go](http://reachbeyond.org/go) for next steps.

**PRAY:** Join us in prayer for the unreached. Each week in Prayer World and on our social media channels, we will spotlight one of the 1900 UPGs. Follow along with us in prayer for these people groups. Pray also that God would open doors and provide resources for us to serve among the least reached.

**PRAYING FOR THE**



**MOOR**

Country: Mauritania  
 Population: 3.7 million  
 Religion: Islam  
 Evangelical: 0.10%



**MAPPILA**

Country: India  
 Population: 9.2 million  
 Religion: Islam  
 Evangelical: 0%



**CHAKKILIYAN**

Country: India  
 Population: 1.3 million  
 Religion: Hinduism  
 Evangelical: 0%



## PASHTUN, SOUTHERN

Country: Afghanistan  
Population: 2.6 million  
Religion: Islam  
Evangelical: 0.01%



## PUNJABI

Country: Saudi Arabia  
Population: 797,000  
Religion: Islam  
Evangelical: 0%

## ARAB

Country: United Kingdom  
Population: 100,000  
Religion: Islam  
Evangelical: 0.50%

# 81% DO NOT KNOW A SINGLE CHRISTIAN

## OF HINDUS, MUSLIMS AND BUDDHISTS

*\*numbers taken from Joshua Project.*

# ...PRAY FOR THE 1900



## QASHQAI, KASHKAI

Country: Iran  
Population: 967,000  
Religion: Islam  
Evangelical: 0%



## HAUSA

Country: Nigeria  
Population: 30.5 million  
Religion: Islam  
Evangelical: 0.10%



## SHUI

Country: China  
Population: 327,000  
Religion: Ethnic Religions  
Evangelical: 0.25%



**HASANIA**  
Country: Sudan  
Population: 709,000  
Religion: Islam  
Evangelical: 0.10%

**DRUKPA**  
Country: Bhutan  
Population: 228,000  
Religion: Buddhism  
Evangelical: 0%

OUR MINISTRY HAS  
**POTENTIAL**  
ENGAGEMENT AMONG

**32%**

**OF THE 1900  
LARGEST UPGs**

# FORGOTTEN

BY SHEILA LEECH

Earlier this summer, I went to the local fish and chip shop to buy supper. It was an extremely hot evening, and the shop was even hotter than the outdoors as the air conditioning struggled to compete with the heat generated by the deep fat fryers. I was tired. I had completed a 1,500-mile road trip and needed to leave just 14 hours later on yet another foreign trip. I just needed food. The cupboards in my apartment were bare.

I placed my order and took a seat. One by one the orders were called out by number. My order was number 6. I listened to 4 and 5 called, and my mouth watered as I anticipated my food. Then 'number 8' was called out.

No! What about 6 and 7? I waited another five minutes. My heart was sinking along with my stomach. Had I been forgotten? It was more than hunger, it was a hurt feeling, maybe a feeling of rejection, a disappointment? Whatever it was, the feeling was totally disproportionate to the actual facts; after all, it was just fish and chips. A couple of minutes later, the smiling assistant handed me my food and apologized for the delay—they had been waiting for a fresh batch of the fish I had chosen to fry.

Relief, vindication, a restoration of self-worth? All of the above. Ridiculous? Out of proportion to the reality? Yes. But in my tired state, very real nonetheless.

As I reflected on that incident on my drive home, I began to ask myself how, then, must people like the Rohingya feel? They have valid reasons to feel forgotten

and must surely share some of the deeper emotions which go with that.

The Rohingya are a predominantly Muslim group who lived in (mainly Buddhist) Myanmar, in Rakhine state. Over the past couple of years, they have been systematically driven from their villages, beaten and even killed by the authorities in Myanmar which caused them to flee for their lives into neighboring Bangladesh. Now approximately 700,000 Rohingya live in poverty and squalor around the town of Cox's Bazar in makeshift camps.

The Rohingya were stateless in Myanmar—not being a recognized ethnic group in that country—and

now they are stateless in Bangladesh, where they are just glad to be alive.

Initially the world cried out for justice for the Rohingya. Their plight made headlines in all of the newspapers. Footage on news channels showed thousands of Rohingya fleeing, clutching small children as they hauled cooking pots and their personal belongings with them, struggling through mud, up and down hillsides and along narrow trails.

## THERE WAS AN INTERNATIONAL OUTCRY.

High ranking officials were questioned as to how this could happen. Famous people spoke out. This was an abuse of human rights; this was ethnic cleansing! How could this happen? They called for an end to the injustice.

Worse, the world  
seems to have forgotten  
them. The world has  
moved on...

Today, the Rohingya are still living in those camps. Some of the structures have become semi-permanent—they had to do something as monsoon rains swept through the camps. Raised pathways were built, some form of informal organization became evident in the camps, but no progress has been made to determine the future of the Rohingya refugees.

Worse, the world seems to have forgotten them and moved on. The press has new and more exciting stories to tell.

Occasionally some news item from Bangladesh will hit the pages—like when elephants trampled some Rohingya refugee camps or the mudslide that swept away parts of the hillsides where the Rohingya were clinging to life. But mainly, nobody remembers those 700,000 people, each of whom have their individual story of grief, loss and suffering.

God laid the Rohingya people on the hearts of Reach Beyond leadership long before they became refugees. While they were still in Myanmar, we prayed for opportunities to share the Good News of Christ and of His love, His sacrificial death and victorious resurrection with them. They are considered an unreached people group, with very few known Jesus followers. Most of them had never met a Christian before arriving in Bangladesh.

While they remained in Myanmar the Rohingya were inaccessible to the world. But since they arrived in Bangladesh, Reach Beyond, working with a local partner, has access to minister to them.

Since November 2017, Reach Beyond has cared for the Rohingya people by finding ways to provide for their physical needs. A small medical clinic was built in one of the camps and is staffed daily by Bangladeshi doctors, nurses and midwives. Reach Beyond sends monthly teams to support the Bangladeshi staff, help attend to patients and to teach. We are also funding the daily operations of the clinic. We estimate that the clinic costs \$350 per day to run. The medicines we give out freely cost around \$200 dollars a day.

Reach Beyond has not forgotten the Rohingya. God has not forgotten them. They are dear to Him. Jesus died for them, and He knows each one by name. They are precious in His sight.

Please help us continue to bring hope and healing to the Rohingya people in Jesus name. Remember them before the Lord in your prayers. ■

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET.**

(Read stories from the Rohingya clinic on page 14)

# WHAT TYPE OF GIFT IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

## GIFTS THAT PAY YOU INCOME

Charitable Gift Annuities  
Charitable Remainder Trusts

## GIFTS YOU MAKE TODAY

IRA Charitable Rollover  
Charitable Lead Trust  
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Endowed Gifts  
Gifts of Stock, Securities or Real Estate

## GIFTS THAT CREATE A LEGACY

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CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE

[REACHBEYOND.ORG/LEGACY](https://reachbeyond.org/legacy)

givebeyond@reachbeyond.org  
**800-525-8857**

**REACH BEYOND**

## STORIES FROM THE ROHINGYA CLINIC

Eight-year-old Effie\* came in looking pretty sad. In fact, sadness seemed to be her only diagnosis. She had been referred around a bit, trying to get to the bottom of why she didn't go out and play and why she wasn't eating. She had certainly lost her smile along the way. After going over the medical history and looking her over without finding a specific reason for her problems, I asked, through the translator, what was going on at home. Was her dad there? Did the family get along? Was anybody hurting her in any way? Negative answers to these questions brought me to the mom one more time. I asked, "Did anything happen to you all on the way to the camps?" It was then that she said her daughter had witnessed an aunt being hacked to death during the flight from Myanmar.

Medical school, and for that matter, forty years of practice, doesn't much prepare you for this. They allowed me to pray for her – for them – and we did, asking for our Father to bring some healing to the family and especially to Effie. But we knew that she was going to need some gentle, same-language coaching and counseling to come along towards health again. There is a Dutch NGO in the camp doing trauma counseling and we accompanied her to that clinic.

These stories are everywhere, but now and then, you get caught up into the pain and misery of a whole people through the eyes and heart of one little girl. Pray for Effie. Keep praying for the Rohingya. The end is far from over. And in the meantime, pray that the ones who can be in the camp sharing the light of Jesus in a more open way find exactly the right words to share. ■

- Dr. Steve Nelson

A 35-year-old woman came into the clinic. Her chief complaint was pain all over her body, nothing specific. Her eyes were so sad, just dark and dead. She had no smile. I could not find anything physically wrong with her except for a small patch of tinea. I requested a photograph as she was so beautiful, and she said yes. I took one but noticed that she did not smile. When I asked her to smile, she told me she did not have any smiles left. She began to tell me about fleeing Myanmar and watching her husband and 12-year-old son killed in front of her. She escaped with her 10, 6 and 4-year-old children. We asked if we could pray for her, and she said yes. When she started to leave, I told her I would pray for her. She hugged me hard. That was a huge highlight and heartbreaking at the same time. ■

- Rachel Gunderson, RN

*\*names changed*

### ▶ HOW CAN YOU HELP?

## GIVE, GO, & PRAY.

**GIVE:** Help us continue to be the HANDS of Jesus among the Rohingya. The average cost of providing health care and medicine to a Rohingya refugee comes out to just \$5.50 per patient. Your donation can help bring both physical and spiritual healing to these hurting people.

Visit [reachbeyond.org/rohingya](https://reachbeyond.org/rohingya) to donate today.

**GO:** Are you a Christian doctor, nurse or PA interested in serving the least reached? We are sending 5-member medical teams into the clinic for two-week assignments every month.

If you would like to learn more, please email [mobilization@reachbeyond.org](mailto:mobilization@reachbeyond.org).

**PRAY:** Please pray for God's protection and provision over the Rohingya. Pray that this ministry will have an impact not only in their lives, but will help to bring entire families to Christ. Pray for resources to come in so we can continue to support the clinic. Pray for encouragement and protection for our medical teams as they travel each month.

### PRAYING FOR THE



### ROHINGYA

Country: Refugees from Myanmar  
Population: 1.2 million  
Religion: Islam  
Evangelical: 0%



# 1900 FOR THE 1900

BRINGING  
THE LOVE  
OF JESUS TO  
MILLIONS



There are 1900 unreached people groups of more than 100,000 individuals who have little to no access to a relevant and transformational gospel witness. Millions who do not yet know the love of Jesus. These are the people groups Reach Beyond has been called to serve.

Currently less than 3% of western missions' resources go to the unreached world and we want to change that paradigm. How can you help? By partnering with us as a recurring donor to support our voice and hands strategies. We call these donors +partners.

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REACH BEYOND

# DISCOVERING JESUS

## A NEW NARRATIVE FOR MISSION

By Aidan Till, Guest Writer

Two ships sit in the harbor. Both tall-masted, with sails unfurled. So alike, so different. The one to the north is the HMS Merchantman, a merchant ship laden with valuable cargo. Anchored to the south, an exploratory vessel, the HMS Discovery. Can you see them? One carrying goods, the other carrying curiosity. Hold them a moment in your mind's eye, then consider...

- How might these two ships be equipped - one for commerce and the other for discovery?
- How might their itineraries differ?
- Who would you expect to find on each? What skills would be needed in each endeavor?
- How might dinner at the captain's table go on each ship? Who would attend? What might the dialogue be?
- If you were to spend a year on each, how different would those years be?

### NARRATIVES AS VESSELS FOR THINKING

We like to believe that we deal in facts, but in point of fact we deal in stories. We are physiologically hard-wired to process facts by building stories to make sense of them. Narratives are the ships our thoughts sail in, the operating systems of our minds, and we can't think without them. They make astounding cognition possible. But they also limit the places our thoughts can go, and if left unexamined, they can force us to see the world through crippling lenses.

Societies do this, too. Our most important processes are carried out in stories, so that our values can be transmitted undamaged. These processes (e.g. marriage, passage into adulthood, leading and following) are similar across the species, but the way we do it differs from culture to culture. Hollywood and Bollywood tell very different stories about exactly the same things, and this is why.

Cultures often have a central narrative, and members of that culture are rarely aware of it. These stories are usually morally neutral, but when a cultural narrative impedes our ability to obey Jesus, it requires critique, and an alternative narrative must be found.

We do mission inside stories, and sometimes those stories limit and warp our mission. It's no accident that the crusades happened during an era driven by feudalism. Conquest was the story, and so the sword drove the narrative of mission. Likewise, during an era of unprecedented Imperial British reach, we should not be surprised to find colonialism driving the mission narrative of the day. People didn't always shed blood and subjugate continents motivated by evil. Sometimes they were blinded by their narrative. An unexamined narrative will always misguide us.

Occasionally, an individual or a small group caught on and went off script, opting for a different story to live in. Francis of Assisi is an excellent example. Rattled by the dissonance between the gospels and the narrative offered, Francis took off his clothes and the story they were made for, stood apart and began building a better story.

### MARKETING JESUS

Perhaps the loudest voice in the missiological dialogue right now is the American voice, and the dominant American cultural narrative is capitalism. It's in everything we do, much of what we say, and in the majority of our assumptions about one another's motives. It should not surprise us to find, then, that the narrative we do mission in is a story about "marketing Jesus." Let me show you what I mean.

## The unengaged need explorers, not marketers.

In the Bible, pastors are skilled, gifted heads of believing households. In North America, pastors are CEOs of charitable institutions. The books on church leadership are business leadership books, baptized with Bible words. Churches compete for customers, and when income no longer meets overhead, churches close. In the New Testament, all the believers in a city were the church in that city. In the US, a church is where you shop for a spiritual product.

When I was in seminary, Coca Cola was a favorite tool of mission mobilizers. They would show a picture of a shaman somewhere in Papua drinking a Coke, and cry, "We have had the Great Commission for 2,000 years! How did Coke get there before us?" The analogy is totally irrelevant, but we all responded. Why? Because we thought of the gospel as a product we needed to deliver to a market. That's the only way that analogy holds.

Once we get "over there," we set out to find the felt needs in our communities. Usually, we walk right past our neighbors to do that. We don't live deeply in communities; we study



them to find out how best to pitch our product, and we pitch. We talk a lot, and we don't ask many questions. Jesus asked a lot of questions. So, if we don't do it like Him, who's doing it wrong?

If stuff starts to happen, we measure it. I was a scientist once. I measured things to learn about them. But we usually measure results to validate our efforts, our callings, ourselves. We rarely measure how our disciples effect change in their communities. We measure numbers and speed of spread. Market penetration.

We write mission statements and vision statements and value statements, just like Jesus taught us to. Except He didn't. We learned that from the business world, so whose disciples are we?

Listen, I think business is good. I love Business as Mission. I hate Mission as Business.

## DISCOVERING JESUS

So, here's an alternative narrative to try out: Mission, not as spiritual entrepreneurship, but as spiritual exploration.

Let's imagine again. This time, imagine a parallel universe, just like ours, with one exception. In this world, the Western mission narrative for the last three hundred years hasn't been delivering Jesus to needy markets, but rather discovering Jesus in the world and helping others see Him, too. How might mission happen differently in this story?

Mobilizers wouldn't ask people to "take Jesus to places He isn't yet." Rather, they might invite people to go discover Jesus in the many places He hasn't yet been sighted. He's always been there. It's just that the not-yet-engaged can't see Him.

Proclamation and disciple making would be less about delivering a message and downloading content into people. Rather, the preacher's task would be to look for burning bushes, evidences of Christ at play, within and without. If I discover Jesus at work in my heart, I proclaim that, and when people have questions, I answer them from my own first-hand experience of Jesus and the Gospels. Like Peter moving

### JEREMIAH 29:13 (NIV)

“...seek me with  
all your heart.”

“You will seek me and find me when you  
seek me with all your heart.”

from his contemplative vision on a rooftop to opening the Kingdom to the Gentiles under Cornelius's roof.

When I discover Jesus at work in a lost community, I proclaim that, and I invite them to see that, too, using the Scriptures in tandem with the Spirit, to discover Christ's invitation and an appropriate response. Like Paul in Athens at the statue of the unknown god.

Leadership would require a different skill set. We would need to release control of outcomes and learn to sail with the Wind. We would need perceptive skills like listening prayer, collective discernment and reflective obedience. Leaders would have to become good at hearing the voice of the Spirit in their community, and then working with it until there's enough clarity to act. Like the prophets and teachers in Antioch, the Jerusalem Counsel and Paul's team hearing the Macedonian Call.

I think I'd walk around differently in that universe. Instead of trudging through a world of darkness and hostility, trying to force a product on people who don't want it, I could walk free through a world of beauty (with its dangers, toils and snares), seeking out the burning bushes, the whispers of God's good intentions, declaring them as I boldly go. Playing hide and seek with God like it's my job, except He's not hiding from those who look.

## WE NEED A NEW BOAT

The Merchantman has taken us as far as it can. We need the Discovery. The unengaged need explorers, not marketers. Jesus is nearer to them than their skin, but the god of this world has blinded their eyes to His glory. We, however, can see Him.

And I want to see all the ways Jesus makes beauty and justice grow from chaos and corruption. I want to hear His myriad names in as many tongues, watching Him reveal Himself to peoples who have never beheld glory, in households and neighborhoods who have had Him burning their bushes for years, but have never seen. I want to navigate the world, not as a traveling salesman, but as a peregrine, an explorer, witnessing restoration as I help to bring it forth along the way.

And I know I'm not alone. Let's go see what we see. ■

*Aidan pastored in the States before serving in Central Asia for 8 years, leading a partnership of workers in collective discernment and concerted obedience. In 2017, Aidan and his family moved to southern Europe, where they seek to help workers in challenging places weave together their inner and outer journeys, toward a beautiful obedience. Aidan recently led a retreat for Reach Beyond's global leadership.*

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## VOICE

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Gain training in Romania on missiological storytelling and learn the strategies of mass media missions before heading to a country to put these skills to use sharing the gospel to some of the least reached people groups in the world. This internship is geared toward college students pursuing a media degree and familiar with current technology and usage.

## HANDS

INTERSHIP

JUNE 30 – JULY 25, 2019



Travel to Ghana to do medical work in partnership with a remote village clinic. Team members will be able to practice medical missions, caring for the sick and broken. In addition to providing medical care, the team will also be involved in children's ministry. This internship is geared toward students pursuing a health-related profession, such as nursing, medical school, pharmacy or occupational therapy.

**VISIT | REACHBEYOND.ORG/INTERNSHIPS**

**FULL**

## JOIN US IN PRAYER THIS YEAR

*Prayer World* will no longer be published as a separate booklet sent out with *V+H Magazine*, but it is still available to download monthly from our website, or through our new feed on the Echo Prayer App.

Here's the first couple of weeks of praise and prayer requests to get you started.

### Week 1: JAN 7-13

#### PRAY FOR THE NEW YEAR

**MON | PRAY** that God will be glorified through the efforts of Reach Beyond in 2019. Pray for wisdom for our leadership and collective discernment in how God wants to lead and use this ministry.

**TUE | PRAY** for our missionaries serving across the globe, that they will feel God's leading this year. Pray for protection over their families and blessing over their work.

**WED | PRAY** for the projects and plans we have set before God for 2019. Pray for wisdom and blessing over the strategies, for doors to be opened and resources provided.

**THU | PRAY** for the staff at the Ministry Service Center in Colorado Springs. Pray that they would remain faithful in prayer and obedient to how God is leading them. Pray for unity and encouragement, and that each staff member will see the fruit from his/her efforts.

**FRI | PRAY** for our indigenous partners around the world. Pray for continued collaboration and for fruit to be multiplied through these relationships.

**WEEKEND | PRAY** for the Somali, a UPG made up of 10.6 million people that is 0% Evangelical. The Somali people did not have a written language until 1972, and as a result over half of the adults are illiterate. The people are also plagued by droughts, famines, wars, malnutrition and lack of modern health services. Pray that God would raise up missionary teachers and healthcare workers to help the Somali. Pray the gospel would be broadcast throughout Somalia to reach those who are illiterate. Pray for God to soften their hearts so that they would be more receptive to receiving the Good News.

### Week 2: JAN 14-20

#### PRAY FOR OUR NEW WORKERS

**MON | PRAY** for Ray and Kitty, a missionary appointee couple raising support to serve the global ministry out of Spain. They will be coordinating short-term teams and providing IT support and training. Pray for full funding to come in and that structure would be in place when they are ready to go into the field.

**TUE | PRAY** for Amelia, a Reach Beyond missionary appointee raising support to go to Central Asia to teach English as a second language. Pray for God to open doors for her to demonstrate the love of Christ while serving among the unreached.

**WED | PRAY** for Vinicio and Dawn, who have transitioned to career missions with Reach Beyond. They have been serving in Ecuador. Pray for their family and for continued support.

**THU | PRAISE | PRAY** God for Brendon and Kathryn, who have accepted our invitation to come on board with us! Brendon has been a firefighter for years and will be coming on board with us to help in disaster relief and crisis contingency planning in the organization. They will be based out of Colorado.

**FRI | PRAY** for Priscilla, a midwife and new missionary with Reach Beyond serving in Burkina Faso. Pray for her to pick up the language quickly and for God to open doors for her to serve among the women.

**WEEKEND | PRAY** for the Bhoi, a UPG from India made up of 6.2 million people, 0% Evangelical. The entirely Hindu community has no followers of Jesus among them, although nominal Christians who do not truly follow Christ's teachings may be an impediment to the Bhoi. Pray that God will deliver families and communities within the Bhoi people from fears that hinder them from embracing His blessings.

**WE INVITE YOU TO GO TO OUR WEBSITE, [REACHBEYOND.ORG/PRAY](http://REACHBEYOND.ORG/PRAY), TO DOWNLOAD AND PRINT A MONTHLY PRAYER LIST, OR DOWNLOAD THE ECHO PRAYER APP AND FOLLOW OUR FEED.**

# REACH BEYOND

1065 Garden of the Gods Rd.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

# Prayer WORLD



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