

V+H

MAGAZINE

JUL/AUG 2018

# REBRANDING REACH BEYOND

SETTING THE VISION TO REACH THE LEAST REACHED

"...EVERY NATION, TRIBE, PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE, STANDING BEFORE THE THRONE"

-REV 7:9

**REACH  
BEYOND**  
VOICE+HANDS, TOGETHER

TOP STORY

**OPPORTUNITY TO DO GOOD**

# rebrand. renew. reach beyond

Dear Friend of Reach Beyond,

Somewhere, at some point in time, someone introduced you to King Jesus. Do you remember that day? Your life changed. Maybe overnight. Maybe over time. But your life changed. You gained a new purpose, a new code for living, a new hope for the future, and a new spiritual family. Can you imagine what your life would look like now, if no one had ever gone out of their way to introduce you to Jesus?

In spite of the remarkable advances of the gospel in recent years, there are still billions of people that have yet to be introduced to Jesus. These are real people, with real needs. Most of these people live in hard to reach places where they have limited access to the gospel. Many come from tribes or people groups that have been historically resistant. These are people that Jesus loves. They need someone who will reach beyond borders, beyond words, and beyond themselves to introduce them to King Jesus. Our vision comes straight out of Revelation 7:9. We want to see Jesus known and loved among all people.

Of the 16,000+ people groups in the world, there are still 1,900 tribes of more than 100,000 individuals that lack ready access to the gospel and don't have an indigenous church strong enough to reach their own. We can do something about this. We know where these people are located and we have the tools to reach them. Through our indigenous partners, we already have a gospel witness in more than 32% of these groups. But we need to expand our reach and go deeper with our impact, because everyone, everywhere deserves the chance to meet Jesus.

One of our highest priorities right now, is to bring the voice and hands of Jesus to the Rohingya people. For years, we've been praying that God would provide us with an opportunity to introduce these good people to Jesus. Because of the tragic ethnic cleansing in Myanmar, over 800,000 of these people have now fled to refugee camps in Bangladesh. The conditions in the camps are harsh and unrelenting. Through compassionate acts of service, our teams have been able to demonstrate the love of Jesus.



**REACH  
BEYOND**  
VOICE+HANDS, TOGETHER

**MATTHEW 28:19**

“...make disciples...”

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and  
of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*

Voice + Hands Magazine is produced bi-monthly by Reach Beyond.

## OUR VISION

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

## OUR MISSION

To facilitate a partner-driven movement that results in every unreached people group of more than 100,000 individuals having ready access to a relevant and transformational Gospel witness. - MATTHEW 28: 19

Doors are now opening for us to begin proclaiming the Good News. The Rohingya are being introduced to Jesus! You can read all about it, in this issue of *V+H Magazine*.

We know that reaching 1,900 unreached people groups (UPGs) with the voice and hands of Jesus is an enormous task. We can't do it on our own. But we can do it TOGETHER. That's why we're asking God for lots of partners. We're building coalitions of churches from all over the world that want to adopt UPGs. We're forming alliances with Christian universities and sister agencies. We're asking God to triple our missionary force and we're restructuring to deploy ministry workers on the front lines of the UPG harvest. We're committed to doing whatever it takes to introduce these people groups to Jesus.

## We want to see Jesus known and loved among all people.

With this issue of *V+H Magazine*, you've probably already noticed the change in look and feel. There's a reason for the change. It reflects our renewed passion and commitment for making Jesus known and loved among all people. I hope and pray that you will enjoy the new format and that it will inspire you to do all you can to join the Revelation 7:9 movement to introduce King Jesus to all people.

Thanks for your partnership with Reach Beyond.

You are loved,



**Steve Harling**  
President



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# OPPORTUNITY TO DO GOOD

BY LISA BALZER

The bamboo and tarp tents blanket the hillsides as far as the eye can see, in what has become the largest refugee camp area in the world. The images and stories have circulated the globe – of the estimated million ethnic Rohingya who have fled violent persecution in their home country of Myanmar since August 2017, to neighboring Bangladesh, either via a river crossing or through the jungle.

Last November, Reach Beyond and a local Bangladeshi NGO began working on a plan to help the Rohingya in their displacement. The immediate need was for blankets in the cold season and, in January, we were able to work together on a distribution of 10,000 blankets in one of the camps. People began sharing their stories with us. One man showed us the scars where he had been shot at as he fled; another clutched a photo of his family, from whom he had become separated during the escape and had not been able to locate since.

The camps are so vast that the need for medical facilities is great. With a local partner, we determined that our next step would be to provide a maternal and primary health care clinic in an underserved camp area. On May

7, that clinic opened, with local professionals and a Reach Beyond medical team working together to begin serving the people in the immediate vicinity. In its first four days, the clinic registered more than 300 people for consultation and/or treatment. Conditions have included gastric problems, day-to-day injuries from working with bamboo, skin infections, malnutrition, anemia, coughs and fevers, suspected tuberculosis and malaria, cuts and burns, and pre- and post-natal issues.

The stories start to come out as patients interact with the medical staff; when they fled Myanmar and by what route, who they lost on the way, what they experienced and witnessed. One 12-year old boy told us in clear English, “My mother was shot. She is dead. And my brother, and my brother-in-law.” An 18-year old girl came in seven months pregnant, with no husband and no family in the camp. She wouldn’t give details. Completely alone, she is facing motherhood in two months’ time.

## I Couldn’t Make Her Smile.

Dr. Steve Nelson was among our first doctors to serve in the clinic. One patient in particular caught his attention for just the fear and hopelessness she felt.



The Asia Pacific team hands out blankets at a refugee camp in Bangladesh as our first step in serving the Rohingya. ▶



“Rahjek (*name changed for her protection*) was one of the patients I saw today. She is eight-years-old and was looking pretty sad, he said. I asked her if she had left her smile at home, which usually works to get one to show up, but no-go for Rahjek. Even taking into account how strange it must have been for her to find herself at our clinic faced with a foreign doctor, I guess she didn’t have much to smile about. She had been ill for two months; coughing, fevers at night and losing weight, and coughing up blood. Maybe coughing up blood reminded her of her sister who had died last year in Myanmar of tuberculosis (TB).

“I asked her to cough, and what she brought up looked very infected, but no blood. By then, Mom was standing by and said ‘it doesn’t happen all the time’ – but there were some telltale signs in her chest and I was starting to talk to Mom about a special clinic not too far away that specializes in treating TB. Mom looked pretty frightened at the thought - maybe she had been through some of this with her other daughter who died. I tried to tell them that Rahjek could get well, grow fat and give her some grandbabies but she would have to take medicine for a long time. I wanted to pray with them ... and wound up

## WHO ARE THE ROHINGYA?

- A people group indigenous to the Rakhine State Myanmar, tracing their history to the 8th century
- Denied citizenship under the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law, left out of the 2014 census and declared as illegal immigrants
- Described by the UN as one of the most persecuted minorities in the world
- One of the largest stateless populations in the world
- Population estimated to be 1 million in Myanmar before the crisis
- Estimated 800,000 have crossed the border into Bangladesh. Almost completely Muslim, Rohingya are a very conservative people group with their own language and culture.

# THE HOPELESSNESS AND FEAR facing Rohingya, ...the impact OUR TEAM has to CHANGE LIVES.



## BY GOD'S GRACE WE ARE TRYING...



doing it by myself as they headed out of the clinic with my referral note, at least headed down the right path of the camp to be seen at the specialty clinic.”

### Wounds Too Deep For Medicine Alone To Heal

There are an estimated 90,000 pregnant women currently living in the 22 refugee camps in Bangladesh, so the need for pre- and post-natal care is high. Midwife Gabriella Egberth shared a story about her experience with a woman who recently lost a baby in the camp.

“She came in looking very, very weak. Her eldest son told us she had been bleeding for 5 days. Five days ago, she delivered her full-term baby, who was stillborn, in her home, Gabriella said. This was her eleventh child. I examined her and found her womb had not contracted because it still had some remnants of placenta inside. We were able to administer I.V. treatment to shrink her womb and replenish her fluids. We also could give her vitamins to treat her anemia.

“Since she has 10 children at home, and two are very sick, she would not be able to go further away to another hospital. She was with us for the entire day, and at the end of the day her husband and son carried her home on a chair they had attached to a bamboo pole.

*Our team was able to help a woman who had delivered a stillborn baby. Her husband and son constructed a way to help carry her out of the clinic after treatment. ▶*

*Our next step in serving the Rohingya was to help build and staff a medical clinic in one of the camps. Pictured above, Dr. Steve Nelson and Midwife Gabriella Egberth begin treating patients in the newly constructed clinic. There are plans to add generators and an ambulance to better serve the population. ▲*

“At the start of the day, I wondered if we could give this woman everything she needed. But by the end of the day she was stronger and could go home. She was very grateful for our help. My prayer is that she will fully recover from the physical and emotional trauma she has been through.”

These are wounds which medicine alone cannot treat. But by God’s grace we are trying to help bind up their hurt through compassionate medical care, seasoned with love and silent intercession to our Father on their behalf. The Rohingya numbers are vast, but the more we interact with them the more we see individual faces, individual stories, and precious individual souls to be loved and cherished in His name. ■





# GIVE, GO, & PRAY.

Help us continue to be the HANDS of Jesus among the Rohingya. There is an urgent need to purchase a vehicle for an ambulance, and ongoing needs to pay for medicine, cover operational costs of the clinic and send medical teams to the camp.

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 2-week assignments every month. There is especially a need for female medical staff. 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 God will continue to open doors for us and our partners to be able to share the love and hope of Jesus with the Rohingya. Pray for workers to come forward to be able to staff the medical clinic, and pray for God's wisdom over our team to be able to minister to and serve the Rohingya well. Pray that the Rohingya will see Christ through our staff and volunteers and will have a softened heart toward Christians.

**GALATIANS 6:10**

“...as we have opportunity,

*“So then, as we have opportunity, let us work that which is good toward all men...”*

**God placed the Rohingya people on Reach Beyond's heart long before they fled to Bangladesh, but we were hindered in reaching out to them as long as they were isolated in Myanmar. With the refugees now in Bangladesh, a window has opened allowing us to love and pray for this unreached people group.**

Here's a timeline of our involvement so far:

**Oct 2017** | More than 600,000 Rohingya refugees reportedly arrive in Bangladesh after fleeing violence in Myanmar.

**Nov 2017** | Reach Beyond's Asia Pacific Region visits Bangladesh to explore ways we can use Voice and Hands strategies to serve local partners reaching out to the Rohingya.

**Dec 2017** | Reach Beyond is asked to provide 10,000 blankets to help Rohingya families in the refugee camp get through the cold winter nights.

**Jan 2018** | Reach Beyond sends a team to the refugee camps to hand out 4,000 blankets, thanks to the overwhelming support from our donors. 6,000 more blankets were handed out in the coming days and weeks from our partner.

**Feb/Mar 2018** | Reach Beyond identifies the next step in serving the Rohingya: helping our partner build and run a medical clinic in one of the refugee camps, serving 1,000 families.

**Apr 2018** | Reach Beyond returns to Bangladesh for the ground breaking of the medical clinic and to assess future community development project needs.

**May 2018** | The first Reach Beyond medical team arrives to the newly constructed clinic to begin seeing patients. Plans are underway to send 5-person medical teams back each month.

# REBRANDING REACH BEYOND

SETTING THE VISION **TO REACH** THE LEAST REACHED

Last summer, Reach Beyond president Steve Harling was attending the Maranatha Bible and Missionary Conference when he decided to go for a walk and visit the Prayer Tower. Upon approaching the tower, he noticed a plaque, stating:

*The original prayer tower building was located on the peak of this, the highest dune at Maranatha. In the Rader Era (1926-1932) the prayer tower was in daily use for seasons of prayer. This practice continued when Maranatha was established.*

*Many decisions and commitments were made here. In 1926, one such decision, made by a young couple, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Jones was to answer God's call to South America to establish Christian radio broadcasting.*

Steve found himself standing at the site where it all began. It took five years before that calling was answered, before Clarence would go south and establish HCJB, later to become Reach Beyond. But it began with bold faith.

“Clarence Jones was a man of bold faith. Six radios in the country...and he starts a radio station. That’s bold faith,” said Steve. “Clarence saw the future, saw what God was doing, and knew this medium would be a powerful force in spreading the gospel.”

“Bold faith, life-giving community, empowered partnership, and strategic innovation.”

In the early days, a number of people were attracted to the idea of what God was doing through Clarence in Ecuador. Because of the strong sense of vision they felt, they formed a solid sense of community. It was life-giving community. They prayed together, lived together, sacrificed together, and sought God’s will together. They took a lot of risks, but they were in it together.



Reach Beyond was founded on bold faith. Six radios in the country, and Clarence Jones launched HCJB Radio to bring the hope of Jesus to Ecuador. Bold faith continues to lead us today. ▲



This plaque at Maranatha’s Prayer Tower commemorates the spot where Clarence Jones received his calling to go south. It all started with prayer. ◀

The original prayer tower building was located on the peak of this, the highest dune at Maranatha. In the Rader Era (1926-1932) the prayer tower was in daily use for seasons of prayer. This practice continued when Maranatha was established.

Many decisions and commitments were made here. In 1926, one such decision, made by a young couple, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Jones was to answer God's call to South America to establish Christian radio broadcasting. Today, this great mission of Reach Beyond HCJB in Quito, Ecuador, spreads the Gospel worldwide.

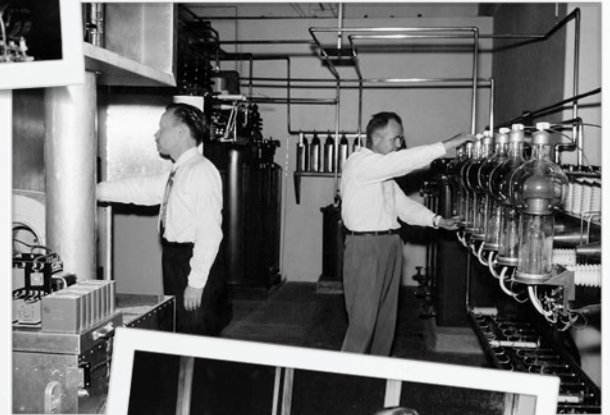
COVER STORY

Our Jesus for children is the foundation for Maranatha's future. This requires a challenge to succeeding generations to stand firm on God's Word and pray without compromise to the world.





## OUR MISSION



This vibrant community created an incubator of entrepreneurship. HCJB was the first Christian missionary radio station in the world. So many of our pioneers were men and women of great vision, who dreamed up new ways of proclaiming and demonstrating the gospel through strategic innovation.

“We started with shortwave, but that wasn’t the only thing we did,” said Steve. “We got into medicine and developed technologies for treating common conditions people had in the Amazon jungle. One of our doctors created protocols for eliminating river blindness in Ecuador. They put loudspeakers on vans and bought the first missionary plane. They were always pushing the envelope on how it could be done.”

Finally, there never was a sense that this was just our own thing. Reach Beyond has been about partnership from the very beginning. We were always coming alongside other groups to support what they were doing.

“Bold faith, life-giving community, empowered partnership, and strategic innovation. Put those four values together. We feel like they were embedded in our DNA as a mission, and need to shape our mission moving forward,” said Steve.

*Reach Beyond has always been known for strategic innovation, whether it was inventing technology to better broadcast the gospel, or researching ways to better treat illnesses. ▲*

## SHAPING THE FUTURE OF REACH BEYOND

This month, Reach Beyond is rolling out a new brand identity, but what does that mean? Why now? What has changed?

VOICE + HANDS, TOGETHER

# THE STRATEGY + NEW BRAND



*Clarence’s vision attracted others, and soon there was a vibrant, life-giving community living, praying and working together in Ecuador. We hold onto that value today, even though we are now spread throughout the world. ▲*

# REACH BEYOND

VOICE+HANDS,TOGETHER



*Reach Beyond's internship program helps bring along the next generation of workers to the field, using Voice and Hands strategies to reach the unreached. ◀*

Since Clarence Jones received the call from God to go south and start HCJB Radio, the ministry has gone through seasons of significant change. Going from primarily shortwave radio to helping our global partners initiate community FM radio in the early 1990s was a monumental change. Expanding our focus and presence from being Ecuador-based to having a presence around the world was another big change. In the early 2000s we took the skills and experience our missionaries acquired in Ecuador and began to come alongside national believers in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe to mobilize them to use the tools of media, medicine and community development in their evangelism strategies. The impact has been enormous ... far greater than if we had stayed in Ecuador alone.

*And now we are in a season of growth and change once again.*

When Steve Harling became president in 2016, he led our staff, missionaries, and leadership through discussions over big questions: How do we build on the foundation of our past and be willing to change to be relevant today and into the future? If recent research is true that 70,000 people a day are entering eternity without Jesus, how can we position Reach Beyond for greater impact and at what cost?

From those conversations, we agreed that our vision is clear:

## To see Jesus known and loved among all people

*Whether it is building a water project in Central Asia or building an antenna project in Thailand, Reach Beyond leverages the work of partnerships in order to proclaim and demonstrate the love of Jesus to the unreached. ▶*

Our mission is to facilitate a partner-driven movement that results in every unreached people group (UPG) of more than 100,000 individuals having ready access to a relevant and transformational gospel witness.

Our strategy is to use our specialized skills in media, medicine and community development in order to catalyze a movement of churches and individuals to come alongside our disciple-making partners around the globe and resource them with the tools and strategies for proclaiming and demonstrating the love of Christ among the world's least reached people.

Thus our tagline, Voice + Hands, Together.

### VOICE: BEYOND BORDERS

We believe that everyone deserves the chance to hear the story of Jesus. We leverage radio and digital media resources to reach beyond borders, communicating to UPGs around the globe. We believe this is our specific calling, and that our unique positioning and gifting is for the 1,900 UPGs of 100,000 individuals or more. We currently have some touch with 32% of UPGs that fit this category, but we need to go deeper.



How do you define a UPG? They are an ethnic group without an indigenous, self-propagating Christian church movement. They are two percent evangelical or less, with no church of their own able to support growth without outside intervention. There is a reason these UPGs haven't been reached. They are hard to get to, and they are resistant to the gospel. But we are living out our mission with BOLD FAITH and trusting God to do a miracle among these people.

## HANDS: BEYOND WORDS

We believe the gospel needs to not only be proclaimed, but also demonstrated by serving the needs of UPGs beyond just words. We do this through community development and medical outreach projects.

Our Hands strategies open doors into unreached people groups to which we wouldn't otherwise have access.

We don't just drop the gospel from the sky, but we are on the ground providing medical support, clean water projects and training in geographical areas that often don't allow overt Christian witness. We have lots of opportunities for believers to use the skills and experience that God has given them to serve the least reached. We're looking for engineers, medical practitioners, veterinarians, agronomists, entrepreneurs, and disciple makers...and you don't have to have a seminary degree.

## We believe that God has called the church to fulfill the Great Commission



*Radio planting and medical projects are just some of the examples of Voice and Hands strategies that Reach Beyond utilizes. ◀*

# VOICE + HANDS, TOGETHER

**MATTHEW 9:35**

## “...proclaiming the gospel

*“And Jesus went through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and affliction.”*



## TOGETHER: BEYOND OURSELVES

We believe that the best way to fulfill the Great Commission is through empowered partnerships, with churches from sending countries and organizations in receiving areas, to reach beyond ourselves.

## In order to finish the task, we need to triple our footprint.

We have always been about partnership, and we continue to come alongside incredible indigenous partners to proclaim and demonstrate the gospel. But partnership isn't just in the field. It is also how we partner here at home. We believe that God has called the church to fulfill the Great Commission, so we ask ourselves, "how can we come alongside and partner with the local church to help them accomplish what God has placed on their heart to do?"

Not only do we partner with churches, but we also partner with individuals, both as workers and as donors. Later this summer we will be launching a new opportunity for supporters to partner with us financially, called + Partners. These are donors who commit to giving on a monthly recurring basis at least \$30 a month. We are trusting God to raise up 1,900 + Partners to represent the 1,900 unreached people groups of 100,000 or more individuals that God has placed on our heart to reach.

## REACHING OUR FUTURE

In order to finish the task, we need to triple our footprint. We need to invest in our people and raise up a new generation of leaders to focus on UPGs. We need to engage with churches in new ways, and we need to become a loud voice for the least reached.

Our new brand platform is a first step in building clarity and excitement around this story. Will a new logo get us to fulfilling Revelation 7:9? No. But it is one piece in how we are positioned to accomplish all that God has called us to do and be. ■

### REVELATION 7:9

“...standing before the throne,

*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.”*



*We want every tribe, tongue and nation to know the love of Jesus. English conversation clubs are one way we can reach the least reached. ▲*

# GIVE, GO, & PRAY.

**GIVE:** Would you be willing to join us as one of our 1,900 recurring monthly donors representing the 1,900 unreached people groups of more than 100,000 people that our mission targets? **Visit [reachbeyond.org/give](http://reachbeyond.org/give) to learn how you can make an impact.**

**GO:** Whether you are interested in joining a short-term missions trip, learning about our internship program, or taking the steps to be a full-time missionary with us, Reach Beyond is committed to helping you get there. See how the training and passions God already equipped you with can be used to proclaim and demonstrate the Gospel to the least reached.

**Visit [reachbeyond.org/go](http://reachbeyond.org/go) to learn more, or email [mobilization@reachbeyond.org](mailto:mobilization@reachbeyond.org)**

**PRAY:** You will notice that in this issue of *V+H Magazine*, we now include *Prayer World*, our prayer guide to cover the ministry in prayer. Will you commit to praying with us?

Pray for the UPG groups that God has placed on our heart and opened a door for us to reach.

Pray for our leadership, that they will be filled with God's wisdom and will prayerfully follow His direction. Pray that God will protect and equip our workers in the field, and that He will be glorified through all we do.



# PRACTICING THE JESUS WAY

By Matthew Rawlins, Vice President of Operations

I've spent a significant amount of time in the last 25 years studying culture. In doing so, I've realized the importance of understanding my own culture and how it impacts the way I read Scripture, relate to Jesus, do ministry and interpret everything around me. Don Smith was formative in my thinking and through him I began to see some of the cultural values that shape me. In his book *Creating Understanding*, I learned that, as a North American, I see the universe as a machine. Not only that, I see it as something that I can manipulate and control. What? Ok, stay with me here.

Does that make me a maniacal super-villain bent on world domination and control? No. I'm typically not even aware of these deeply held values as I go about my day-to-day activities. Neither are most North Americans and many western cultures who also share these unspoken values. It's actually much subtler than that. It shows up in far less sinister ways through our need and desire for productivity and efficiency. If we just bring the right team of brilliant people together and throw enough resources at it, we'll "crack the code" to this whole unreached people thing.

One of the problems with this thinking and way of living is that we seem to be just as far away from seeing this world reached as we've ever been. We live in a world of unprecedented technological advancements that have made us the most productive and efficient people in history.

We have stores filled with apps for bettering our lives and making them more efficient and productive. We've been so busy building our strategic plans, checking the boxes on our to-do lists and running at a frenetic pace that we've not had time to notice the irony--Our efficiency has actually turned out to be really inefficient. Our productivity hasn't led to the fruitfulness we anticipated.

When I take a look at Jesus' life in the gospels, I see a very different way of life and ministry. Have you ever noticed

how often Jesus seems to be disappearing just to get alone with His Father? There's a major decision or event about to unfold and instead of running around doing stuff, he leaves the scene. When He returns, He knows what to do since the Father has told him what to do. There appears to be a pattern of doing less before some major event. This is the opposite of our normal approach and is counter-intuitive to many. Is it possible that fruitfulness comes as much, if not more, from *being* than it does from *doing*?

## We must be radically committed to listening to and obeying one teacher—King Jesus.

The Gospel of John certainly emphasizes this idea in chapter 15. Attend to the vine, not to the fruit. You can't attend to both simultaneously. If you really want to see Jesus fruit, focus on Jesus not the fruit. So why do we tend to do this backwards? We put so much attention on productivity when Jesus said we won't produce fruit unless we simply abide in Him. I'm wondering if at the root of this, we've forgotten what it means to "be" disciples of Jesus.

Most missions that I've worked with have discipleship as one of their stated values. The assumption is that if it is one of the values, then it will permeate the organization and ensure that its members are committed to making disciples. In theory that sounds like a great idea, except that values don't shape us. Our practices shape us. Our practices, planned and unplanned, point to the things we value. If we want to live into an aspirational value, then we must have practices to shape us accordingly.

## John

*The Word Became Flesh*

**I** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing

"Finally they said, 'Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?'"

"John replied in the words of Isaiah: 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord.'"

JOHN 15:4

# “...abide in me,

*Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.”*

I would submit that we really want to see discipleship as a value of a community, mission, church, etc., then we must have intentional practices of being disciples. We must be radically committed to listening to and obeying one teacher—King Jesus. Disciples are intended to order their lives and daily rhythms around these practices. As a friend of mine recently pointed out, we tend to order our days around ensuring productivity, and our King has to interrupt our day to get a word in.

To this end, our Reach Beyond community here in Colorado Springs is doing our best to live into that reality together. In my first opportunity to share in chapel last fall, I expressed my hope and prayer for Reach Beyond—that we would be known as a community of people who are shaped by the practice of listening to and obeying Jesus. This is the Jesus Way. One of the ways we are practicing this as community is to “push pause” on whatever we are

doing at 11 am and 2 pm each day. All throughout the building, we gather together to read the Word of God and pray for our people. We stop and we listen. We re-orient our day. We re-center on Jesus.

What might it look like if the greater Reach Beyond community made this part of their regular practices as well? How might our lives and ministries be different if we stopped to listen together and did only what King Jesus tells us to do? And what if we did this without regard for productivity and efficiency? We would like to extend the invitation for you to join us. In the enclosed and newly-revamped *Prayer World*, you'll find the schedule we are following. It's not the only way to go about this practice, but it's a start. Let's move forward together, as community, and be a people for whom prayer comes easy. ■

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make a gift.

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**GiveBeyond@reachbeyond.org, or call  
800-525-8857**

**REACH  
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