

A photograph of a waterfall cascading over dark, wet rocks in a lush, green forest. The water is white and frothy as it falls. The surrounding trees are dense and vibrant green.

UNFINISHED

**PARTNERING IN PRAYER TO FINISH
THE GREAT COMMISSION AT HOME
AND ABROAD**

A man in a light blue and white striped button-down shirt and khaki pants stands in a field of tall green grass. He is smiling broadly, waving his right hand, and holding a small black book in his left hand. The background shows a cloudy sky and some distant structures.

**WE NEED TO
DO THE
THINGS
THAT WE
HAVE
THOUGHT
OF DOING,
INTENDED TO
DO, TALKED
ABOUT
DOING, &
ARE
ABUNDANTLY
ABLE TO DO.”**

-A.B. SIMPSON

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WHY LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSIONS

Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:18-20

The Great Commission was Jesus' parting words to his disciples before his ascension, and this command still echoes through the history of the church to us today. Jesus has called all believers to the fulfillment of the Great Commission. It is the responsibility of the entire body of Christ. However, God's missional intent and heart for the nations of the earth—or his desire for his people's involvement—did not begin at the moment he gave the Great Commission.

God's redemptive plan for creation began in Genesis. God has always had a missional intent, to draw all people of the earth to himself, and he chose to do this through a certain people. He made a covenant with a man named Abraham, promising to make him into a nation that would be God's own people.

“ I will surely bless you, & I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven & as the sand that is on the seashore. & your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies & in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice. - Genesis 22:17-18 ”

From Abraham came Israel, and from Israel came David, and from David came Jesus Christ. Then Christ gave us the church. God still desires to bless the nations of the earth through his people, and he already has through Jesus Christ, God crucified and risen. However, not everyone knows the Good News. This is why we are commissioned, as the people of God, to preach the good news and to make disciples all across the earth. In this way, all the nations of the earth will continue to be blessed, unto the glory of God.

We desire to complete the Great Commission not only because it is a command of Jesus, but also because our hope lies in Jesus' second coming; giving every man, woman, and child an opportunity to respond to the Gospel quickens his return.

When Jesus gave the commission to his disciples, he charged them to make disciples. In choosing to follow Jesus, we have also accepted this call and should seek to fulfill this commission wherever we are—locally as well as globally. Today, participating in the Great Commission doesn't only include going to be a missionary overseas. There are many ways to participate in the Great Commission.

WHAT CAN I DO?

LIVE IT OUT

Doing missions overseas, doing local missions and outreach, volunteering, preaching the gospel and talking about Jesus, being a gospel presence in your spheres of impact. You are a missionary. Live into that identity now, today!

BE RESOURCE GENEROUS

Generosity is not just for the rich but a character of Christ, thus also his followers. You can step into generosity by giving to the C&MA's Great Commission Fund, giving to global missionary partners, giving money to local outreaches, shelters, and ministries, or giving time and skills that are uniquely yours!

DISCIPLESHIP & LEARNING

God is inviting us to walk with him and learn. Continue or begin your journey of apprenticeship in Jesus' way of living, growing with him & others. Wrestle with questions and seek wisdom from Scripture, prayer, and your community on things like:

- How can I be a gospel presence?
- How and who should I tell my story of what Jesus has done for me?
- Who do I need to get around to either be disciplined by or pour myself into?
- What areas do I still just need to learn about and what is my next step?

PRAY

Take a bold first step by praying for the missional efforts of the body of Christ and the completion of the Great Commission. Did you know that this commission is not just a biblical concept but a call on every Christian's life to participate in? We must start, continue, & finish the work primarily through prayer.

PRAY WITH US FOR OUR FAC PARTNERS

LOCAL

Booker T Washington
Wellington Elementary
Natalie's Sisters
Russell Cave Church of Christ

IncaLink
Hope Clinic
U.A.C.A.

GLOBAL

Pray that God would move through our partners in a meaningful way - Pray for revival where they are - Pray for gospel to breakthrough & be accepted - Pray for their needs & family

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS

- The Awabdys
*CAC
- The Browns
*CAC
- The Carters
*CAC
- Bob & Beth Chick
Trans World Radio
- Elizabeth D.
*CAC
- The Elliotts
*CAC
- Marci & Larry Flick
Go InterNational
- Bob & Linh Hahn
Quy Nhon, Vietnam
- The Henrys
*CAC
- The Johns
Albania
- The Julians
Cote d'Ivoire
- The Lawsons
US Air Force Chaplin
- The Manghams
*CAC
- Rachel McGarvey
Guinea
- The O'Connells
International Messengers
- Phil & Debbie Renfroe
Marion, IN
- The Waggoners
Albania
- The Walkers
Tanzania
- The Williamsons
Taiwan

*CAC- Creative Access Country

Find out more at:
faclex.com/out

Praying For the Great Commission

Prayer is one of the most effective and important things that you can do in participating with the Great Commission, because prayer is how we are able to participate with God's governance of the world. Our prayers have real global impact, and it is the primary way we can participate with God in removing obstacles to the gospel throughout our cities and the world. Our desire, as the body of Christ, is for God's kingdom to fully come, and for his perfect will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. This should always be the heart of our prayers; that God would move and have his way on the Earth.

It can be difficult to know what to pray, but Scripture is full of specific prayers and promises that we can draw from as we pray for the church, the nations & the world. Use the language of Scripture in your prayers. Seek to pray specifically when you can. If you know missionaries by name, pray for them by name and lift up their specific needs! Also, pray for specific unreached people groups by name. Be specific!

A Prayer for the Kami people of Nepal using the prayer from Acts 4:29-31 as a guide

Context: They speak Nepali, & adhere to Hinduism. It is illegal to preach the gospel in Nepal, a country which is almost entirely unreached

“Lord, thank you that you are a light to the nations, and that you desire to be known by everyone, everywhere. I ask that even though the Nepali government is hostile to the gospel, you would continue to anoint your people there with boldness to preach the Word to the Kami people. Holy Spirit, fill missionaries in Nepal with boldness and wisdom, that they would have courage to speak the right words to those they minister to. I also ask, Holy Spirit, that you would work miracles in Nepal. Stretch out your hand to heal the sick and suffering in Nepal and exalt the name of Jesus among the Kami people. Amen”

It takes all of us



Most of us will participate in the Great Commission in all of these ways at some point in our lives. But it's important to know that you are ***participating***, no matter your level of engagement. When you financially support missionaries and intercede for them, you are ***joining*** in that mission and are a part of what God does as a result. You will be ***united*** in that spiritual inheritance.

BIBLICAL PRAYERS TO USE IN INTERCESSION

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might... (Ephesians 1:17-19)

That according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:16-19)

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:9-11)

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy... (Colossians 1:9-11)

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ... May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Romans 15:5-6, 13)

That in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:5-8)

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12)

Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one... May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. (Thessalonians 3:1-3, 5)

And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. (Acts 4:29-31)

Look down from heaven and see, from your holy and beautiful habitation. Where are your zeal and your might? ...You, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name. Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. (Isaiah 63:15-16, 64:1-4)

"And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Acts 2:17-21)

Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. (Revelation 1:5-8)

"I, Jesus...I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:16-17, 20)

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After learning more about what we can do to participate in the Great Commission, consider reflecting on these questions by yourself, with your family, or your small group.

- Humanity's highest purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy him in relationship forever. Read Psalm 96:1-3, Matthew 5:13-16, 1 Corinthians 10:31, and 1 Peter 4:10-11, 16. What do these passages show you regarding how to live in a way that glorifies God?
- God's redemptive plan for earth and all of creation spans from Genesis to Revelation, and God's intent for the nations has always been that they would come to know him. Read Isaiah 42:5-12, Isaiah 56:1-8, Daniel 7:13-14, Micah 4:1-5, and Malachi 1:11. What do these passages reveal to you about God's heart for the nations?
- Read Isaiah 49:6, Luke 2:25-32, John 3:16-17, John 6:33, and 1 John 4:14. What do these verses teach us about Jesus's purpose and mission?
- Read Revelation 7:9-17. What does this passage show you about the eternal reality of the body of Christ?
- What is your current level of involvement with the Great Commission and God's mission?
- Take a moment in prayer, and ask the Lord what ways you can continue to participate and be mobilized to share the good news and make disciples.