

God's Heart for the Nations

Intro: Last week Krystal talked about God's Heart for Our Neighbors, we looked at the Good Samaritan and getting into the ditch with the person God places in front of us, she spoke of Intentionality, getting out of our comfort zones, and being devoted to people.

With those truths in our hearts and minds, today my prayer is that we all receive God's Heart for the Nations.

Before we go any further, I want to allow the Holy Spirit room to help us zoom out.

I want you all to close your eyes, and as you are doing this, I am going to name off continents. As I am going through the list I want you to picture the people that live there. Don't just focus just on skin color, but try to see their faces even though it is difficult for some areas of the world that we aren't as familiar with.

PRAY: God help us to do this. Even bring to our minds the faces of your creation, in each area of the earth.

North America

South America

Europe

Africa

Asia

Oceania (including Australia, New Zealand, and the smaller Pacific Islands.)

“God align our hearts with yours, give us your heart for all people, every tribe, language, people, and nation.”

As we are in this place of beholding the people of the earth in our hearts and minds, I hope you are filled with God's love and compassion for all of them.

I can't help but to be reminded of different people groups I have spent time with, in their own languages worshipping Jesus. Different phrases like Thank you Jesus, God bless you, and many more.

I am gonna say what I have in my mind and then lets take a couple of minutes, and if any of you have the phrase "Thank you Jesus" or "God bless you" (or both) from another language, id like to invite you to stand up where you are and speak that out.

Makua- Cochkuroo Yesu and Malukoo-oreliheyunny
Portuguese- Obrigado Jesus and Deus te abencoe
Indonesian- Terimakasih Yesus and Tuhan berkatimu

To me, this is a sound bite of the Kingdom of Heaven.

God give us your heart for the nations, stir us up for the nations, so that we are better equipped to Advance your Kingdom.

God's Heart for the Nations

All of us in this room right now, are a direct result of the advancement of the Kingdom among the nations.

We wouldn't be here right now if it wasn't for faithful men and women of God, spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and making disciples.

Thank you Jesus for the ones who have gone before us and for the people who reached out to us with the Gospel. Help us steward the grace that we have been given well, help us to steward your inheritance of the nations well.

I was saved when I was 14 and the words God immediately spoke to me after receiving salvation was "You're going to be my missionary" ... through tears and complete awe, all I could say in that moment was "Yes Lord". Those two words have marked me. So for me it was Salvation, and seconds later God was gearing me up for the nations.

This topic is so personal for me, it's actually been really difficult for me to put into words. I would love to just stand up here and tell you story after story about how God has unmistakably and miraculously shown me His heart for the nations. ... but I definitely don't have time to do that today.

But with everything Dira and I have been through I stand before you saying, I feel like we have only scratched the surface of God's burning heart for the people of the earth. We are just one little family who has said "Yes Lord" ...

I'm not up here as an expert, I am up here as someone desperately longing for His heart for people.

So setting aside all those crazy testimonies for today, lets jump in.

Neighbors and Nations in tandem. It was never meant to be one or the other.

Regardless, If you have never experienced a culture outside of the United States or if you have been around the world a time or two, according to Matthew 28:18-20 we all have a part to play in making disciples of all nations.

3 pieces of scripture as a foundation,

I wont spend too much time breaking them down, just know these are the bed rock of what we are talking about today.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Rev. 5:9&10

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth."

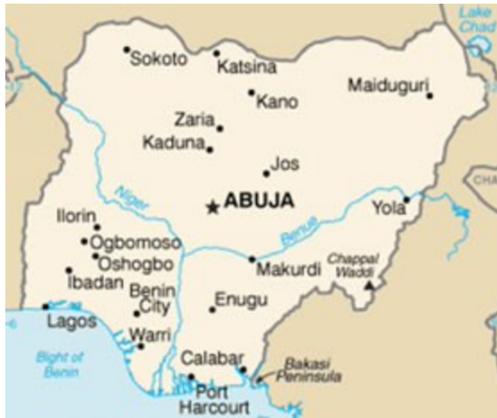
Rev. 7:9-12

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

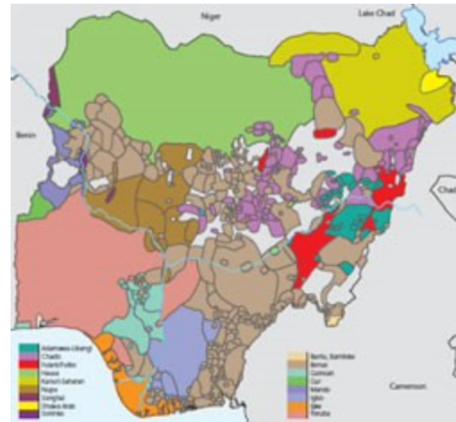
The word “nations” in Greek is the word *ethnos*, which refers to a grouping of people based on commonalities.

People being connected through, historical or family roots, culture, language, shared values and beliefs, common interests and experiences.

SEE MAP OF NIGERIA



Nigeria: a single political country.



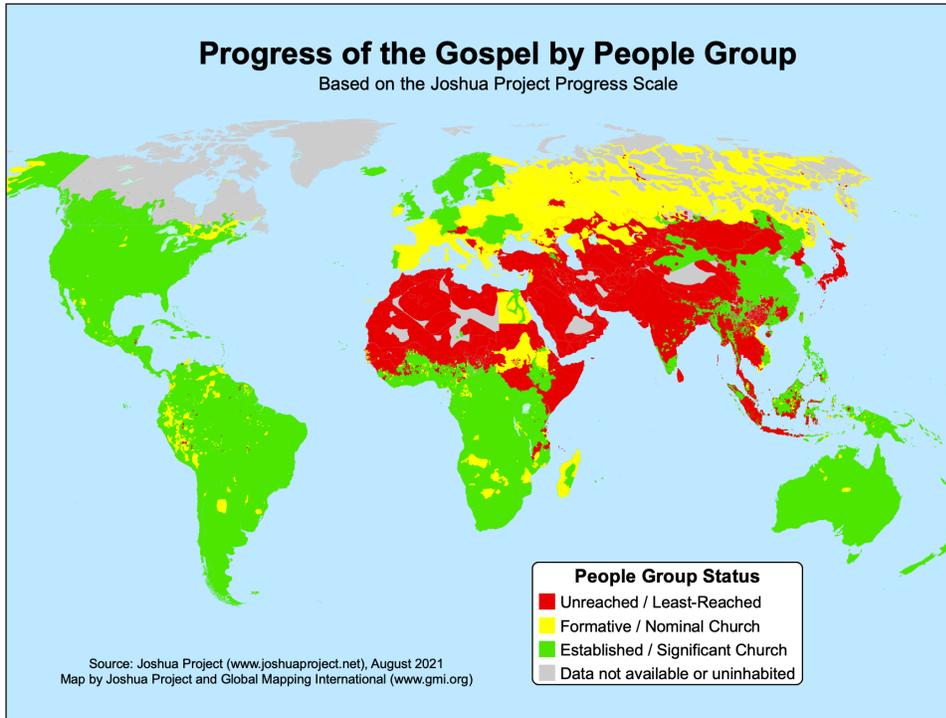
Nigeria: a collection of over 540 distinct people groups each needing a church planting movement in their midst

God isn't referring to politically bordered countries (even though those are included in what He calls us to.) He is referring to people groups.

Psalm 2:8

“Ask of me and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession” Other translations say “I will make the nations your inheritance”

Jesus, the creator of the world, wants to use us in in bringing His Kingdom to the ends of the earth,



Take a look at this map of the Progress of the Gospel by People Group... Let this sink in for a minute. When I see the green, I want to praise God for all of the Advancement of Kingdom that has taken place. However, when I see the Yellow and Red, it almost leaves me breathless and bothered with the reality of so many people who don't know Jesus.

Pray for the 10/40 Window Region

Seek First God's Kingdom

Abide

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me." - Jn 15:4 NASB

Seek Jesus first, meditate on His Word, and let Him be your strength. Seek fruitfulness over productivity.

Pray

Pray for the world. The "10/40 Window", between 10°N and 40°N latitude in Africa and Asia, is an area with very great need. Ask God to build in you humility and a love for those who are lost. Thank our Lord for His faithfulness in guiding and providing. Pray for the Lord to raise up laborers for the harvest.

Obey

Where God leads, follow with an unrelenting intentionality, but never do things merely to mimic others or to gain God's love. He already loves you deeply; rest in that love.

Be Spirit-led, examine your life, and consider how you can be faithful to God's leading.

Tips for Techies

- » Know that your technical giftings are greatly needed in God's Kingdom.
- » Pray about taking the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course (can be taken online): www.perspectives.org
- » Do an internship or volunteer work with a missions agency. Contact LightsSys if you'd like some ideas: www.lightsys.org/start
- » Come to a Spring Break Code-a-Thon for Missions in Colorado: www.lightsys.org/code
- » Get the **Unreached of the Day** app (Joshua Project) for Android / iOS.
- » Attend an event where a missionary is sharing. Ask him/her questions.
- » Be intentional with your financial and relationship decisions!

Scan For More Resources

Reference Joshua Project

REACHED VS. UNREACHED

An unreached people group is "a people group within which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians able to evangelize this people group." In the middle 1990's mission strategists sought to quantify this definition. They settled on the criteria for unreached as less than 2% true Christ-followers and less than 5% Professing Christian (this includes all forms of Christianity i.e. anyone that would call themselves a "Christian.")

UNENGAGED

Data from the [International Mission Board \(IMB\)](http://www.imb.org) of the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest denominational mission board in the world, suggests that there are possibly over [3,000 ethnic people groups](http://www.imb.org) that are not only unreached, but also completely unengaged meaning there is no known active on-site church planting effort underway and few, if any, know believers.

To say that a people group is unengaged means there are definitely no missionaries, in all likelihood no outreach, no church or fellowship of believers, no Christian materials, and few if any Bibles in these people groups.

You might be tempted to think “What can I possibly do” and that my friends is the wrong question. With faith like the boy who offered his lunch to Jesus who in turn fed more than 5,000 people, we need to ask. God, what can you accomplish through my little life, for the nations, and for the sake of your Kingdom and your Name? I want to find out.

The enemy wants us to not see this need, he wants us to be stuck in our little bubble. But I want us to have God’s perspective. To see how he sees.

If the enemy can keep me focused on how unqualified I am, or how broken I am, that im not ready, that im not enough, that im too hurt, too wounded, then we will succeed from stopping us from reaching the nations

Paul was a terrorist to the body of Christ, killing Christians whenever he got the chance.

And God still said “Oh, I am gonna use Him to bring the Gospel to the nations.”

Side note:

I firmly believe that loving people, serving people, sharing the gospel with people, modeling Jesus’s life will get us out of any rut mentally or spiritually that we are experiencing... Even when and especially when you don’t feel like doing it. Even when you want to make up excuses why you just can’t right now.

Because Scripture Says:

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.,

Preferring others above ourselves,

You might be tempted to think “What can I possibly do”...

It’s Christ in you the hope of glory,

“Hide it under bushel know, I’m gonna let it shine”

We are ambassadors for Christ, to advance the Kingdom of Light unto the nations of the earth.

Going back to the Great Commission, this message was given to the Bride of Christ, His body. There is a stereotype of missions being an individual calling, In community.

Look at Paul's life... sent out from community

Here are two very important keys for us to catch God's heart on this.

Matthew 5: 3 & 5

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

1 Cor. 2:1-5

And I, when I came to you, brothers,^[a] did not come proclaiming to you the testimony^[b] of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men^[c] but in the power of God.

As Ralph Winter aptly stated "The task of identifying and penetrating the remaining unreached peoples — the great challenge of "discipling all the nations" — still lies before us. But we are assured in Scripture that God will be worshipped by "a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language." We are within range of penetrating every people group on the planet with the light of the gospel with more momentum than ever before in history. Be a part of it — find a place of historic significance in declaring "His glory among the nations!"

Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

He is not a man that He should lie, He will be exalted among the nations and in the earth. He didn't just say "In the United States. He means ALL OF THE EARTH"

We are all called to pray, and we are either going or we are supporting... if we aren't we are missing it.

I know I might have bothered you a little bit, so lets leave here with these truths in our hearts.

Abide: "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in me" John 25:4

Seek Jesus First, meditate on His Word and let Him be your strength, seek fruitfulness over productivity.

Pray: Pray for the world. Pray for the 10/40 window in Africa and in Asia. Ask God to build in you humility and a love for those who are lost. Thank our Lord for His faithfulness in guiding and providing. Pray for the Lord to raise up laborers for the harvest.

Obey: Obey where God leads, follow with and unrelenting intentionality, but never do things merely to mimic others or to gain God's love. He already loves you deeply; rest in that love.

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