

Lift up your eyes

Because the harvest is *still* plentiful, Jesus calls us to lift our focus from the many consuming – and frightening – realities that bear down on us to see the ripening fields with the heart of God. Jesus also simplifies the problem of the unengaged harvest for us. The problem is not too few Christians, or two few churches or too little money.

The problem is there are no willing laborers to work the fields.

Jesus' solution to that lack is equally simple, though not necessarily easy: pray until the Father thrusts them out.

As you read the stories in this issue of those who have answered the call to work in the Lord's harvest, we invite you to join us in praying for more laborers, and to be willing to be the answer to your own prayers!

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE
August 2021



ALL IN

God often does not move until we go “all in” on his plans for us.

“I was studying the scriptures when I heard the Holy Spirit say, ‘I want you to go to Orenburg to share my Word.’

I had never heard of such a place and looked behind me to see if someone else was there that might have spoken to me, but no one was there. Still, I was sure that I heard the word Orenburg.

“The word stayed in my mind, so a couple of weeks later I started researching and discovered it was a city in Russia with over 120,000 Kazakh Muslims. After two months of praying together with my wife Aigul, we believed God led us to share with our pastor, who is a friend of Global Teams. He came back to us, ‘We Kazakhs must take the Gospel to others who do not have it!’ We knew we had to take the next step.”

With encouragement from his pastor, Bolat visited Orenburg. He had a wonderful reception from local Kazakhs he met, but friends and family questioned the wisdom of such a move.

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Olesya Markovskaya at English Wikipedia, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



Others told him, “As a Kazakhstani citizen, you will never be accepted here. Russia doesn’t want you!” Indeed all doors looked closed to the human eye but not to God’s.

One day Aigul came across an announcement that Russia was opening their doors to repatriation for those born outside of Russia during the USSR.

A list of host cities did not include Orenburg, however. And of course this would mean giving up their citizenship to become Russian citizens - leaving behind family and friends. Aigul’s heart filled with anxiety as she remembered all the difficulties she and Bolat had faced in becoming Kazakhstani citizens. “I can’t go through that again,” she told God.

Bolat and Aigul battled in prayer for weeks until they surrendered to the Holy Spirit’s call. They would sell their home, give up their citizenship and move with their four young children to Russia. Not surprisingly, the new host city list suddenly included Orenburg.

**Russia doesn’t
want you.**

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did not stop.**

Their families were furious and promised if they went through with the plan they would cut off all communication. But Bolat and Aigul had already won the battle over fear in prayer and made the necessary applications.

Once again they were told, “Russia only wants ethnic Russians to come back.” But God had already spoken, so they waited peacefully. Within the month, the embassy called back to say that their application had been accepted!

Once moving to Russia, their problems did not stop. Local officials delayed their paperwork using up all of the money from the sale of their house. They weren’t allowed to work and one of them had to be at home 24 hours a day in case an immigration official came to check on them. Finally, they were told that their citizenship would not be approved until they had owned a home. But they had spent all their money in submitting documents!

God moved again in their behalf: their families’ hearts changed and they sent them enough money to purchase a small apartment outside the city. After two years of working, their citizenship was approved. “God has done so many miracles to get us here we know that He has a plan to reach the Muslims.”

God often does not move until we go “all in” on his plans for us. Bolat and Aigul’s complete surrender opened doors for the Lord to move in their behalf.



GT Field Partners from KAZAKHSTAN

Since moving to Russia, Aigul and Bolat have added another child to their family. Aigul works as a medical doctor.

Maybe WE are the ones...

As a young married couple in Mexico, finances were really tight for Joel and Patty, so when they were offered work at a Christian conference, they jumped at the chance. In their free time, they attended many of the sessions. One speaker was a missionary to Northern Mexico they had both met as singles. Unbeknownst to one another, they had both been praying and giving to this ministry among the Tarahumara indigenous people.



GT Field Partners from MEXICO

By the end of the conference, Joel and Patty had received three job offers, two of which offered salaries. The third was an invitation to join the work among the Tarahumara. Joel confesses, "I was the one looking at our finances and saying, 'No way are we going to do that.'" But they continued to pray together.

One day Patty reflected, "For two years we have prayed for God to send workers to the Tarahumara. Maybe WE are the ones God is trying to send." Joel was still hesitant until the Holy Spirit challenged him with Peter's example: You must get out of the boat, to get to walk on water. So Patty and Joel surrendered to God's call - becoming the answer to their own prayers!

Patty and Joel became the answer to their own prayers!

After serving only nine months, God is honoring their faith in miraculous ways, including the establishment of a small church among the unreached Tarahumara. By believing God for the impossible, Joel and Patty are seeing His promises come true in their lives in ways that they never imagined.



How will they know if we don't go?

When recent college graduates, Roxy and Chris, went on vacation to Mexico, they gained more than just relaxation. While venturing away from the beaches into the forests, they came upon small, remote villages, often comprised of only four or five roadside structures. They were surprised to find that even in these difficult to reach places, there was always a church building.

God began to stir their hearts, "What about the places so out of the way, so difficult to access that no one has been there to share about Jesus yet?" They felt the Lord's heart for these lost people and were challenged to examine their lives as they returned home.

Chris and Roxy were living in New York City serving the deaf community and loving it. But with new eyes, they looked around and could see that God had already called many to serve there. The Spirit whispered to their hearts, "What about those people I love to whom no one has gone?" They were hooked for the unreached and began asking themselves, "If we don't go, how will they know?"

GT Field Partners from the U.S.

What once seemed impossible began to take shape.

But where to begin? With prayer, Google and Global Teams! Being from Florida, they felt equipped to live in the tropics. After spending considerable time researching the unreached on joshuaproject.com, they found a remote area where they felt a deep connection. Not only was this area populated by unreached people groups in a tropical climate, but there was a deaf community! What once seemed impossible began to take shape as God used Global Teams to help clarify their calling and to prepare them to go.

Roxy and Chris plan to leave for language school this month!



Finding Those Called to Go

“Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel” (Acts 9:15 NLT).

One day as they were worshiping God—they were also fasting as they waited for guidance—the Holy Spirit spoke: “Take Barnabas and Saul and commission them for the work I have called them to do.” So they commissioned them. (Acts 13:2-3 MSG).

In Paul’s life we see how God spoke to an individual believer, Ananias, to affirm Paul’s calling, then we see how God called an entire church to commission him and send him out. John Piper claims “This moment of prayer and fasting resulted in a missions movement that would make Christianity the dominant religion of the Roman Empire within two-and-a-half centuries.”

Today we still need individuals and churches to pray and fast, asking God who He is calling and then bravely step up to commission them. There are still 7,402 unreached people groups who need to hear the hope of Jesus. Who will pioneer among these difficult people groups? Has God been speaking to you or about someone else? If so, in God’s words to Ananias, “What are you waiting for?” Let’s begin this journey together!



As we work together to send believers from many nations to those who have never heard, we will be adding to the worshipping throng before the throne from every people, tribe and tongue! (Rev. 7:9)

Take Action!

October 2nd, 10:30 am EST: Meet with our leaders from Central Asia, Central Florida and Northern Uganda who are working with refugees to learn about opportunities to serve with GT.

November 6th, 9:30 pm EST: Join with GTers from five continents to pray for breakthrough in our fields and for new laborers.

To receive a Zoom link for these events, email contactGT@global-teams.org.

The 10:2 Challenge

Join thousands of Christians worldwide who have taken the 10:2 Challenge (from Luke 10:2) to pause every day at 10:02 to ask the Lord to send laborers to the unreached. Download the Joshua Project app from Google Play or the App Store to pray for every day, or pray for groups on our website, global-teams.org.

Are you ready?

Bring your gifts, talents and vision to join a global team from many nations living their faith within communities without access to the Gospel in such a way that new believers don’t leave their culture to follow Jesus.

Start here:

Let’s Go!

global-teams.org/letsgo



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