

V+H MAGAZINE



MISSIONS

TEACHING

COMMUNITY

WORSHIP

DISCIPLESHIP & MISSIONS

THE CONNECTION THAT WILL
GROW THE CHURCH

"COME, FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL SEND YOU OUT TO FISH FOR PEOPLE"
MATTHEW 4:19



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS
- SERVING IN GOD'S TIMING

How well do you know your pastor?

Dear Friend of Reach Beyond,

How well do you know your pastor? The apostle Paul instructed us to “acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work,” (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).

After having served as a lead pastor for over 30 years, I can honestly say that I loved being a pastor. It’s deeply fulfilling to immerse yourself in the Word and preach your heart out on Sunday. It’s intensely rewarding to share in life’s most significant moments with those under your spiritual care. It’s awesome to see God use your gifts to transform lives and build the Kingdom. It’s exciting to see your congregation mobilized to join Jesus on the front lines of his redemptive mission.

So, how can we serve your pastor? How can we assist your church?

But being a pastor is also a very weighty responsibility. Peter Drucker, a leadership guru, once hypothesized that the four hardest jobs in the world are to be President of the United States, lead a university, administrate a hospital or serve as a church pastor. Some church members seem to think that being a pastor is a peachy job – after all, you get to set your own schedule and only have to show up on Sunday.

Trust me, being a pastor is a 24/7 obsession. It’s the agony and ecstasy. As a pastor, you eat and breathe ministry. Your work is never done. It’s unrelenting. Sundays are always a-coming. To many church members, a pastor’s success is measured in the metrics: plates and pews, decisions and baptisms. If the numbers are up, all is well. If the numbers are down, well... let’s just say, that’s not good. There’s a lot of pressure to perform!



Yes, being a pastor is an awesome privilege, but it's also one of the hardest jobs in the world. With the demands of tending the flock, preaching the Word, serving in the community and managing the business of ministry, it's hard to find the time and energy to invest in mobilizing God's people toward global engagement. We get that.

At Reach Beyond, we love pastors. Many of us have served as pastors, and a number of us are serving as pastors right now. We get the demands of local ministry. But we believe that every church has enormous potential for advancing God's global Kingdom. Within every congregation, no matter its size, there are skills, creativity, experience and resources that can be leveraged to bring the Good News of Jesus to the world's least reached peoples.

We want to come alongside of pastors as they seek to disciple their people to have a heart for the lost and a passion for the Great Commission. So, how can we serve your pastor? How can we assist your church?

Over the next few months, we're bringing groups of pastors to our office in Colorado Springs to share best practices, encourage one another and explore how we can work together to bring the voice and hands of Jesus to the world's largest 1900 least reached people groups. We're looking for missional pastors who have a heart for mobilizing their people to reach beyond the walls of their church. Would your pastor be interested in joining us?

This is just the beginning. Our passion is to see local churches unleashed - sending teams, recruiting long-term workers, activating prayer, and strategizing to reach people who live in the hardest to reach places.

How can we serve your church? How can we come alongside of your pastor? We have powerful communicators and experienced church-mission coaches. We're here to serve. Let's talk.

For more information on how we can serve your church, please contact Tomas Gerborg, our Church Engagement Strategist, at 770-599-9875 or tgerborg@reachbeyond.org.

You are loved,



Steve Harling
President

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12

“...acknowledge those...

...acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord...”

LEARN MORE | REACHBEYOND.ORG

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

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Meaningful CONVERSATIONS

HOW REACH BEYOND'S

ENGLISH CONVERSATION PROJECT

IS OPENING DOORS TO THE GOSPEL

If you are reading this story without a translator, you may have the skills needed to bring the gospel to the least reached. You can do it from your own home through a computer. And the only skill you need in your toolbox is mastery of the English language and a passion to talk with people.

Much of the world speaks English, and many non-English speakers want to learn the language. So why not meet that need while bringing the gospel into the conversation? That's exactly what's happening in some security-sensitive countries through English Conversation Clubs.

Created to build a bridge into people's lives, Reach Beyond's English Conversation Project (ECP) brings together English conversation, relationships and evangelism. Teams of Christian broadcasters and teachers produce scripts, audio programs, videos and conversation-starters covering a multitude of topics. The programs are distributed around the world via radio, websites and social media. Using a limited vocabulary and slow, deliberate, clear speech, the project provides opportunities to those who wish to practice speaking and listening in English, while discussing broader issues about life, both temporal and eternal.

Learners who are anxious to practice English hear about the learner website by word of mouth. They are excited to practice English with native speakers, as well as to develop friendships. Since most other English-practicing lessons require payment, ECP's free program offers a great alternative.

Complementing the audio and online materials are English Conversation Clubs. Some clubs meet in person, while others "meet" via digital platforms. Club leaders and English learners from around the world join together to practice speaking English by discussing a variety of topics. Local churches often become engaged as well, running the conversation clubs using this platform.

BENEFITS, IMPACT & OUTREACH

Because discussion topics on the ECP learner website are broad, Christian values can be more naturally woven into conversations.

Hearts become open to the gospel. Long-term friendships are established. Over the years, many club members have become believers through the conversations and relationships that have developed. Churches have partnered with ECP Clubs to disciple new believers.

The whole project becomes a win-win for the communities in which they are involved.

At the Millside Centre in Bradford, U.K., some members of the Reach Beyond office are now regularly helping with English-language learning at the Centre. The outreach is serving women from countries like Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Iran and a range of African countries. One team member was able to empathize with the women, having gone through the experience of being a stranger in a new country and having to learn a new language. She knows that the friendships and learning that these classes offer can be life-transforming.

1 THESSALONIANS 5: 11

“...build each other up...”

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”



CONNECTIONS & IMPRESSIONS

In the south of Spain earlier this year, the creative minds that write, edit, produce and voice the audio programs and videos for ECP came together with writers of conversation starters and club coordinators. They gathered for the ECP Annual Conference to pray, fellowship, plan and strategize together. Team members met with a club in Spain and found encouragement and a fresh perspective. Fred*, a team member, was encouraged by a woman he met who worked two jobs to provide for her family, yet made it a priority to attend the ECP Club in her area. It became clear to him that so many of those in the program need a place to go and people to listen, help and give them a little hope. Stuart* agreed and said it was “a good reminder of the end goal, not only giving an opportunity for English conversation but also for relationships that direct people to the Savior.”

That evening held highlights for Ian* as well, as he engaged in dialogue with club members and listened to their stories telling why they come to the group. “One lady needed to improve her English as her work team became more and more global, another was a policeman, and some were high-school age. It was so encouraging to see how the club is making a difference.”

PROGRESS & SUCCESS

The ECP program has continued to grow, involving partnerships with churches and individuals throughout the world. Many club members keep in touch regularly and get together for celebrations. Last year was a very encouraging year for Reach Beyond’s English Conversation Project:

- Nearly two million people visited the website last year.
- Two new radio stations started airing ECP audio programs.
- Subscribers to the YouTube channel surpassed 21,000.
- English Conversation Clubs increased from 80 to 133 and are now engaging with English learners in 35 countries.

ECP is a tool that God continues to use to bless individuals and communities. Not only does it bless the learner, but it also blesses the volunteers involved. Whether you use ECP materials to form a club to help English learners in your own community, or you get involved to support the efforts of ECP reaching the least reached, either way it is an opportunity to start a meaningful conversation that could have eternal impact. ■

**Names changed to protect identities*

“In the English Conversation Club, they’re not just there to help you learn English, but because of their love, it influences me in a way that I don’t even recognize.”

FROM ECP CLUB LEARNERS

A young girl in a country closed to missionary activity and where many worship their ancestors told us how she had become a Christian through an English Conversation Club. In talking with the leaders, she became curious about Christ and eventually gave her heart and her life to Christ. She was baptized and has since had the chance to share the gospel with her grandmother. God also led her father to church and he received the Lord as his Savior. She said, “In the English Conversation Club, they’re not just there to help you learn English, but because of their love, it influences me in a way that I don’t even recognize.”

GIVE, GO, & PRAY.

GIVE: You can support projects like the English Conversation Project by making a one-time or recurring donation to the work of Reach Beyond.

Visit reachbeyond.org/give to make a donation today.

GO: Change a life and get involved as an English Conversation Club leader. To learn more, e-mail ecp@reachbeyond.org

PRAY: Please pray for doors to be opened and lives to be changed through the English Conversation Project. Pray for participants to have open hearts to hearing the gospel, and pray for protection and blessing over those who come to know Christ living in security-sensitive areas around the world. Pray for new volunteers to step up as leaders in the program. Give them wisdom and opportunity to share the gospel with club participants.

DISCIPLESHIP & MISSIONS

THE CONNECTION THAT WILL GROW THE CHURCH

By: Tomas Gerborg, Church Engagement Strategist

I was on my first mission trip to South Africa. Our team had travelled really far, and we ended up at a night service in a tent in a small neighborhood in the northeast corner of the country. A whole crowd of neighbors sang

growth. God had helped me see the strong connection between missions and discipleship.

Is that your story? You may have discovered this too in your life's journey and that's probably why you are engaged

Our challenge to you is to think about how God may want to use you as a catalyst to your sphere of influence, to spread dedication to His cause.

and celebrated Jesus in a way that I had not experienced before. We had a week of serving alongside local church leaders. I got to witness them in action serving their communities. It was challenging and inspiring. Towards the end of this nine-day journey, I was walking alone and talking to God, praying for the people we got to serve alongside and the pastors we had met. During that walk, I felt He was inviting me into a life “on mission” for Him. For me, venturing out of my comfort zone, going to a foreign land and serving others really served me and grew my relationship with Jesus. I had discovered that a missions experience could be vital for my spiritual growth and for growth as a person. It was an “a-ha” moment for me. I hadn't expected that a missions trip would have discipleship impact. It was a catalyst for my spiritual

with Reach Beyond. Perhaps you've seen the transformative power of the task, and God may have used it to make you into a more effective disciple of Jesus. Yes, engaging in mission can be a catalyst for tremendous discipleship growth. Believe it or not, it can also be a catalyst for numerical growth in the Church, because mission is contagious!

I saw that in my last assignment. As a missions pastor for the last several years, I saw people, the church and discipleship grow because of missions. I saw Scott, who wasn't engaged in serving at the church, reluctantly go on his first mission trip, pray out loud for the first time, and then step into lead one of the volunteer teams on Sundays. I saw a mission experience in Haiti challenge Kevin to recruit and lead his own mission teams in the following



MATTHEW 28:19

“...go and make disciples...

“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,”

years. I saw our church become engaged globally, and it sparked a new level of caring for the local community, which helped non-believers be more open to the message. Disciples were multiplying globally and locally, and the Church grew as a result.

We’re all familiar with the Great Commission, which says, “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and 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” (Matthew 28:19-20). The God of the Bible is a sending God.

Disciples are intended to multiply. This was Jesus’s design from the beginning. Before the Great Commission, there was the calling of the disciples. Matthew 4:19 gives a vivid picture. Jesus is walking along the beach, and he comes up on two brothers who were fishing. “Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people.” For Jesus, discipleship begins with mission, just as it results in mission.

So, if we know the transformative effect overseas mission work can have on growing disciples, why don’t we see more churches leverage the potential power of effective missions involvement? There are some incredible examples of churches who are transforming the globe, and their global strategies are tied to their discipleship strategies.

Tragically, however, there are far more examples of churches who consider missions as an item to check off the to do list. We believe that this is the result of a disconnect between missions and discipleship.

It’s easy to understand why this occurs. Pastors are busy people. They’re leading their leaders and congregation, studying for the next sermon, counseling troubled parishioners, dealing with all the various demands of ministry. The mission(s) of the Church can get lost in the mechanics of doing church. Unfortunately, missions often gets outsourced to agencies who function independently of the Church. There has to be a better way, right?

That’s where Reach Beyond comes in. We would love to foster the connection between missions and discipleship and help churches grow. We seek to partner with pastors and churches who want to grow their discipleship-impact by reaching the lost globally. God gave His mission to the Church, and it’s our job as an agency to come alongside the Church and help her accomplish the task God has given her. We will work creatively to train, resource and encourage collaborative sending partnerships with churches – to raise up and send their own career missionary workers to the unreached areas of the world. Once churches have this burden to raise and send their own, we hope to form partnerships of churches – each partnership of churches functioning together to adopt a particular Unreached

“I had discovered that a mission experience could be vital for my spiritual growth and for growth as a person.”

People Group, with a shared burden to send short-term teams, pool resources, shape strategy on the field, build congregational ownership and eventually send career worker teams.

This is where you come in. If you're a donor giving to missions or a missionary on the field with us, you have a unique perspective that needs to be heard. God has already captured your heart in His mission. Our challenge to you is to think about how God may want to use you as a catalyst to your sphere of influence, to spread dedication to His cause. We encourage you to connect your church leaders with our team to explore the best ways to partner. If you're a pastor, we've been praying for you, for your church and for its impact. We'd love to engage in a conversation with you, have you join us for a Pastor's Gathering, or come with us on a Vision Trip. We're here to serve.

What if, together, we could spark a global movement of reaching people who have never heard of Jesus, creating profound impact both globally and in the local church? Wouldn't you want to be part of that? ■

MATTHEW 4:19

“...Come, follow me, Jesus said,...

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”



▶ HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**GIVE, GO,
& PRAY.**

GIVE: Help us catalyze a movement of churches, mission agencies and indigenous believers who will partner together to adopt specific people groups and form UPG Teams.

Give a one-time or recurring gift by visiting reachbeyond.org/give.

GO: Would your church be interested in learning how we could partner together?

To set up a meeting, or to learn more about Pastor's Gatherings, Vision Trips and resources, please contact Tomas Gerborg at 770-599-9875 or tgerborg@reachbeyond.org.

PRAY: Pray for a movement among the church. There are over a half billion evangelical Christians in this world, and the vast majority have yet to take an active role in God's plan to engage the least reached. As we grieve the plight of the unreached, we also grieve the un-sent. Pray for doors to be opened for partnership, and pray for wisdom for our Church Engagement team to be able to serve well.

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SERVING IN GOD'S TIMING

A MEDICAL OUTREACH TO THE FULANI PEOPLE

Kristen Thiessen came to missions ten years ago. She had majored in engineering but wanted to do something else. One Sunday, she attended a church service where Ron Cline, then president of HCJB, was the guest pastor. His sermon and an announcement of an upcoming trip to Ghana moved her to quit her job and go on the trip with her supportive husband, Mike.

A certified EMT, Kristen had considered becoming a firefighter but had no interest in medicine—not until Ghana. She was touched by the vulnerability of the people who came to her for help. When she returned to the US, she enrolled in a nursing program. During the trip, Kristen met a fellow nurse named Sheila Leech, who invited her back to missions. Kristen returned to Ghana for the 2017 summer internship, and then this year jumped at the chance to go to Burkina Faso.

Although Reach Beyond has sent several teams to other areas of Burkina, this time the trip would be heading to a new area, in an effort to reach out to the Fulani people. According to the Joshua Project, the Fulani are one of the largest clusters of unreached people groups in West Africa. Over 41 million Fulani are dispersed across the entire Sahel from the west coast of Africa to the east coast. They are predominantly Muslim and largely untouched by the gospel.

Reach Beyond's regional director for Sub-Saharan Africa, Lee Sonius, and Global Hands Coordinator Sheila Leech led the trip into Burkina. Their goal was to learn more about the culture and needs of the Fulani, as well as ways to support a local Fulani pastor's ministry through health care for the Fulani people. The rest of the team consisted of an Ecuadorian family doctor who graduated from Reach Beyond's residency program, a nurse, a pharmacy technician, a videographer, a physician, his wife—who is a microbiologist—and their two children.

“It's easy to go into a trip like this with the mindset that we're here and ready to go. But this was a reminder that God was in control.”

The medical team flew into the capital, Ouagadougou, and drove for seven hours to the town of Bobo-Dioulasso. Upon arrival, they learned that the permits needed to see



GALATIANS 6:2

“Carry each other's burdens...

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

patients were not yet ready. They also were not able to get in touch with their local Fulani contact. The team met with officials and prayed that God would work through the final details to let them start working. They passed the time listening to worship music and reading verses about God’s plan.

“That was our theme,” Kristen says. “It’s easy to go into a trip like this with the mindset that we’re here and ready to go. But this was a reminder that God was in control.”

Finally, the officials authorized the team to work under the supervision of a local doctor. The delay had been relatively short as apparently the paperwork could have taken three weeks. During this time, a local pastor proved invaluable. He pastors a church of over 900 people in Bobo-Dioulasso. He and his wife also run DORCAS Ministries, a collection of ministries to help young women from villages advance and gain life skills. The pastor introduced the team to some translators, including his son who helped coordinate the groups’ activities and travel.

On Friday, the team set out in a van they rented from DORCAS Ministries. They went to a clinic about 30 minutes from Bobo-Dioulasso. A local nurse runs the clinic and attends to the needs of all who come, including some Fulani patients.

The clinic had three rooms: two examination rooms and a waiting room between them. The line formed outside, and the registration table was under a group of trees. The volunteers at registration took down the patient’s names and birthdates, which many patients did not know. One lady said she was 200 years old. The doctors used the examination rooms. The pharmacy and lab were in a gazebo.

Not many people came to the clinic on the first day, but word spread quickly. When the team arrived the next day a line of 60-100 people was waiting. Kristen saw some Fulani men and standing to the side of the clinic while the line formed in front. They wore colorful, ornate outfits. The women wore dresses and head scarves and the



men wore traditional muslim prayer caps and robes or tunics with slacks. Most of the non-Fulani spoke Dioula. The Fulani and the Dioula speakers generally stayed apart. The Fulani tended to sit in a cluster and watch; they did not join the line with everyone else.

A couple of Fulani guys who did join the line asked the team to visit their village and see patients there. The team was willing, but the pastor warned the team against going to that region as it might not be safe. So, the medical team decided to stay put, planning to see as many Fulani as they could the next day.

But the next day the crowd was bigger, and the Fulani still sat off to one side. The pastor suggested alternating the patients, taking 10 Fulani and then 10 Dioula speakers at a time. As always, the sickest patients were triaged to be seen first. The team saw 150 patients that day.

Several days into the outreach, the team was somewhat frustrated that they still could not reach the Fulani pastor they had planned to support. They had only one week left to work and had not seen much of the Fulani. They prayed that they would not miss their opportunity. On Monday, they treated patients in the mayor’s village, at his request. They saw another 100 patients. When they returned that night, they found the Fulani pastor at the house waiting for them.

“That was probably the first time many of them had come into a church,” Kristen says.

He took them to an area about 40 minutes’ drive west of Bobo-Dioulasso. There was no road to the Fulani villages, so they opened clinic at a church close to the road. They soon received an invitation from the chief of a Fulani village about 3 kilometers away. The village consisted of a circle of clay houses with a well off to the side.

The chief and his family received them warmly. They laid out bamboo mats for their guests to sit on. The team prayed with the chief and his wives and family. He gave them a gift of Guinea fowl eggs. One of the chief’s wives attends the church with her children. When she came to see them at the clinic, the team prayed with her that her husband would come to know the Lord. The team served 400 patients in four days, many of them Fulani people.

Kristen was happy that the team had the opportunity to give out medication in the church as if to say, “Come to the church to be healed.”

“That was probably the first time many of them had come into a church,” Kristen says.

On the other hand, Kristen appreciated that this missions trip was not an overtly evangelistic trip. The goal was always to serve the Fulani in humility and support the local Fulani pastor’s work among them. “You just want to love them and show them kindness,” she says. “It’s cool to be part of an organization that’s doing it right.” ■

▶ HOW CAN YOU HELP?

GIVE, GO, & PRAY.

GIVE: Partner with us to continue supporting our Global Hands efforts. Reach Beyond is dedicated to walking alongside global Christian partners as they initiate medical outreaches, clean-water projects and programs to train village healthcare educators and counselors – ministries that speak to spiritual, emotional and physical needs in their communities.

Donate to our Global Hands Project by visiting reachbeyond.org/global-hands.

GO: Are you a Christian doctor, nurse, pharmacist or PA interested in serving the least reached? Get involved in a short-term missions trip. In addition to trips like this one to Africa, we also have monthly trips planned to serve the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

If you would like to learn more, please e-mail mobilization@reachbeyond.org.

PRAY: Pray that God continues to open the door for Reach Beyond to serve among the Fulani people. Pray for God’s blessing and protection over the Fulani church. Pray that many more would come to know Him through this ministry.





+ 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

THE ONE THING

By Matthew Rawlins,
Vice President of Operations

In Mark 8:27-29, Jesus asks two interesting questions of His disciples. He begins by asking, "Who do people say that I am?" They reply with some of the things they've heard others say, "Elijah, John the Baptist, one of the prophets." After their response, He asks the more personal question, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter's response is "You are the Messiah." Peter gets it. King Jesus is the One they have been waiting for.

It's interesting to me that He asks this question before explaining to them the cost of discipleship. I don't believe that this is by accident. It was important for them to understand what He would be asking of them within the context of knowing that He was Messiah. He was the promised King. He was the fulfillment of everything that they had been waiting for. As King, He had full claim over their lives. The demands may seem great, but He was worth it.

Although this question was asked of the disciples, I believe it is a question that every follower of Jesus must answer. Who is Jesus to me? Who is Jesus to you? How we answer that question has huge implications for how we live our lives and how others see Jesus in our lives. The easy thing

to do is to answer the question like Peter did and to move on with our lives. But if we give thought to that response, it requires much of us. It requires that we alter our lives accordingly. It demands that our lives demonstrate that Jesus is the passion of our lives.

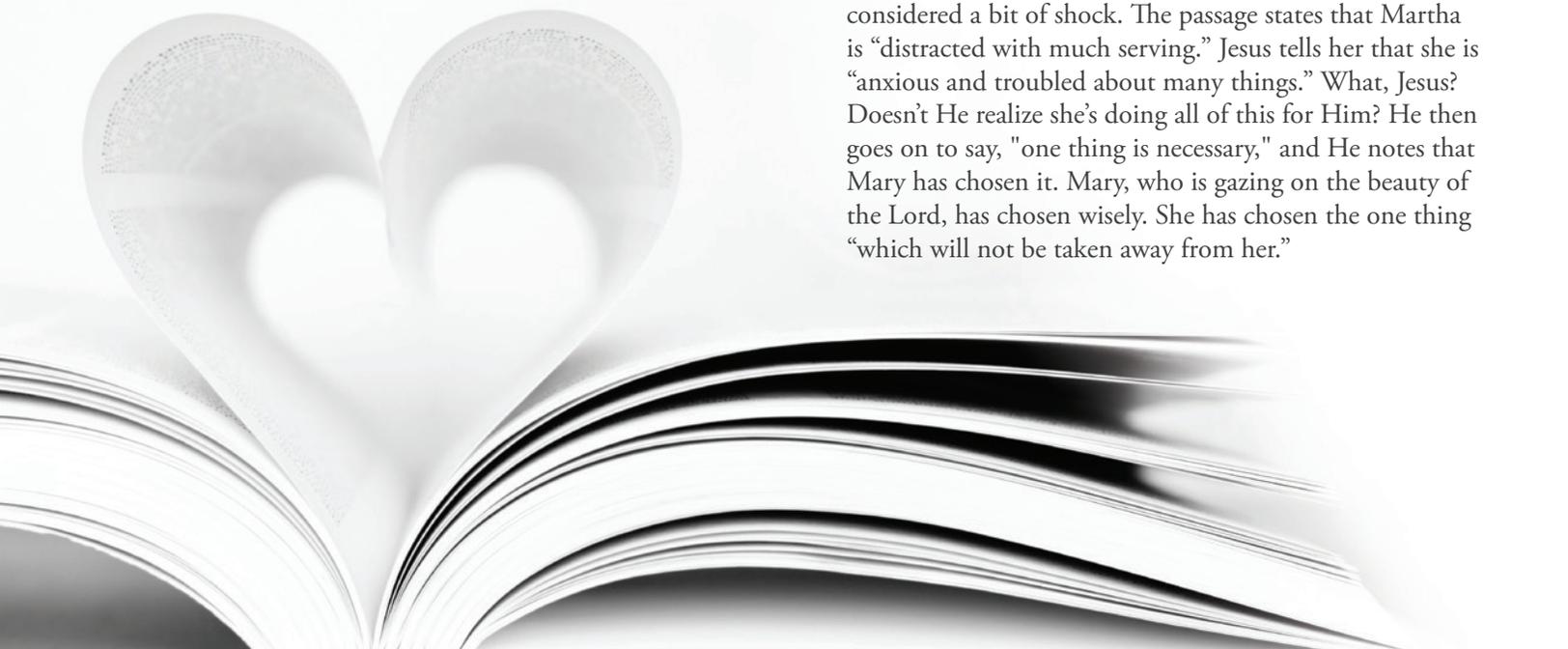
As I think about examples in Scripture of people who truly seemed to grasp this idea, two names come to mind. The first is King David. In Psalm 27:4 he writes, "One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple." Wow, David! The "one thing" you want is the Lord and to simply stare at his beauty and to be with Him?

So, is it possible to do the "right thing" while missing the "one thing"?

This statement holds even more meaning when we take a look at the verses before it. David writes these words within the context of conflict and war, with his enemies all around him. With an army camped against him, the "one thing" he wants from the Lord isn't victory or revenge. He wants to be fully immersed in the presence of the Lord.

The second person I think of is Mary, the sister of Martha. In Luke 10:38-42 we find Jesus stopping for a visit at the home of Mary and Martha, and we see a stark contrast between being busy for Jesus and abiding in Jesus. In this story, Mary is sitting at the feet of Jesus and basking in His presence while her sister, Martha, is running around the house with great care and preparation in service for Jesus. I think it's important to note that Martha is doing the culturally appropriate thing here. Based on doing the "right" thing, she appeals to Jesus to get Mary to help her in doing the "right" thing.

From a cultural perspective, Jesus's response could be considered a bit of shock. The passage states that Martha is "distracted with much serving." Jesus tells her that she is "anxious and troubled about many things." What, Jesus? Doesn't He realize she's doing all of this for Him? He then goes on to say, "one thing is necessary," and He notes that Mary has chosen it. Mary, who is gazing on the beauty of the Lord, has chosen wisely. She has chosen the one thing "which will not be taken away from her."



MARK 8: 29

“...who do you say I am?”

'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?' Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah.'"

So, is it possible to do the “right thing” while missing the “one thing”? From this passage it certainly appears so. I confess that even in writing this out now, my life doesn’t always reflect that Jesus is King—that Jesus is Messiah—that Jesus is Lord over all of my life and the “one thing” I long for with all of my heart. This presents a problem if I am to be actively sharing the “Good News.” If my life is not reflecting that Jesus is the most valuable thing I have—the thing worth giving up everything for—the supreme passion of my life—what I think about when I wake and as I fall asleep, then the words that come out of my mouth will have limited impact. Are we really giving an unbelieving world an accurate picture of who Jesus is? I’m not sure we are, and I believe it stems from the true answer to that question, “Who is Jesus to you?”

My thoughts are not meant to elicit feelings of guilt and shame—quite the contrary. Jesus is well aware of our propensity towards other things. His grace extends even to that. I believe, though, that He is daily calling each of us into deeper experiences of Himself. He invites us to “taste and see that the Lord is good.” He beckons us to simply rest and abide in Him. My prayer for you is that you will see and know and experience Jesus in deeper and more meaningful ways than you ever thought were possible. I pray that in all of your study of Jesus, you will seek to know Him as a person and not just an idea. As Jesus takes you into deeper experiences of Himself, I would encourage you to constantly go back to the question, “Who is Jesus to you?” and indulge in the joy and emotions that follow as you seek after the “one thing.” ■

Reach Beyond's 2019 SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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ROMANIA AND EGYPT
June 9 – July 13, 2019

Gain training in Romania on missiological storytelling and learn the strategies of mass media missions before heading to Egypt 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 Internship
GHANA
June 24 - July 18, 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.

**Learn more about our VOICE and HANDS Summer Internship options.
Visit reachbeyond.org/internships**

REACH BEYOND

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