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VOICE & HANDS

PARTNERSHIP IN SHARING THE GOSPEL

STEVE HARLING'S VISION
FOR REACH BEYOND

PG. 2

'PERSON OF PEACE'
OPENS DOORS

PG. 3

reach
beyond 

A VISION FOR 2017



DEAR FRIENDS,

As I seek God for His leading for Reach Beyond as a year new begins, five principles come to mind that I believe will make us as Christ-followers more effective in reaching the lost.

- 1** We need to uphold the true gospel. Sadly, biblical truths such as the reality of hell, the need for redemption and the atoning sacrifice of Christ are becoming increasingly compromised.
- 2** We need a recommitment to discipleship. Jesus didn't say, "Go and make converts." He said, "Go and make disciples." That requires an investment in the lives of the people whom we reach.
- 3** We need to re-engage the Church. Ministries such as Reach Beyond serve as an extension of the Church in fulfilling the Great Commission. We are committed to equipping churches toward reaching this goal.
- 4** We need to release control to local believers. That's the power of partnership. When we work together we multiply each other's efforts.
- 5** We need to reimagine the "impossible." Sometimes missions are done more by memory than by innovation. We need to attempt impossible things for the God of the impossible.

It's going to be an amazing journey in 2017. The challenges and the opportunities will be great. Together, by God's grace, untold thousands will hear the name of Jesus for the first time.

I invite you to join us in the adventure and see what God does through us!

Serving in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Harling".

Listen to Steve Harling's podcast at
reachbeyond.org/podcast

Suppose you're a missionary, commissioned with the task of introducing Christ to a distant community steeped in another religion. You don't know anyone, there are no believers, and local residents are suspicious of you and your motives.

Where do you begin?

In many cases, the first step is identifying a “person of peace”—the one whom God may have prepared to receive the gospel.

“This person will treat you with peace when you offer the same to him or her,” explains Ty Stakes, executive director of the Asia Pacific Region. “You can see references to this when Jesus was prepping His disciples to go into the villages. In many places, the greeting is, “Peace be upon you,” and the standard reply is, “And upon you, peace.”

*Martin, coordinator of Reach Beyond's healthcare efforts in Central Asia, said the person of peace is often a “person of influence—a teacher, a leader or even the imam from a local mosque. They have standing in the community so

others listen to and respect their views. Through them God is able to open doors that would otherwise be impossible, humanly speaking.”

In an area where open evangelism is prohibited, Reach Beyond works with national believers to build bridges with community leaders who may be open to God's kingdom. “This can happen through healthcare or a clean water project,” Martin said.

In the Nepali town of Harmi, persons of peace paved the way to add a community radio station and a birthing clinic. When an earthquake devastated Harmi in April 2015, Reach Beyond began helping with rebuilding efforts. Today about 30 residents are attending the community's first church.

*Surname omitted for security reasons.

CALL TO ACTION


Pray that the Holy Spirit would move in the hearts of people in places where the gospel hasn't been heard—persons of peace, ready to meet the Prince of Peace.





 | WORLDWIDE

PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL



Reach Beyond works with some 200 media and healthcare partners in over 100 countries, broadcasting the gospel on more than 500 radio stations and providing physical care through ministries such as community development, medical clinics, clean water wells and a hospital in Quito, Ecuador.

It's through the power of partnership that people hear the gospel, often for the first time. Here are some recent testimonies of people impacted by these ministries:

Central Asia: "I'm a taxi driver and listen to your radio no matter where I am. What I like the most is that people who get in my car sometimes ask me about this station.... People sit in the car with random moods, random problems and random needs, and most of them leave my car with Christ in their hearts."

Benin: "Since you arrived in our village, husbands began reconciling with their wives and diseases have decreased. We've been drinking the well water for a month now. Our children don't vomit anymore, and the adults can take a bath as often as they want and drink clean water."

India: "For the past four months I've been listening to [programs produced by] Radio GMTA in English, Punjabi and Hindi. I come from a Hindu family. I want to know more about Jesus, and radio is a blessing to me. I want to read and help my family know about Jesus."

Peru: Some 33 participants and six medical personnel joined with a local partner for the 10th annual *Misión a Bordo* (Mission Aboard) riverboat

outreach along the Ucayali River in late September. One organizer said, "Our doctors worked extra hours to serve those in need—even saving a lady from severe dehydration. The village chief thanked them profusely and made the invitation to return any time."

Unidentified country: "I love your radio streaming. You are our manna. There is no other radio for believers in our region.... My parents listen to your programs the whole day—their only source of Christian information. They can't go to church because we don't have regular fellowship. (It is illegal here.) But the church comes to them. Church is our house because of you."

Indonesia: "We recently visited a listener who lives in a village about two hours from our studio. She is divorced and lives with her three children. For the last three years she was sick and felt insecurity and guilt, and she didn't even have the courage to meet with other people. She just stayed at home all day crying, and sometimes she wanted to end her life. One day she turned on her radio, and she heard about the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11). When she heard Jesus say, 'I don't condemn you either,' the Holy Spirit opened her heart, and she bowed down crying and prayed, giving her life to Jesus. She told us that God has changed her life, and she wants to be a witness in her family and in that village."

CALL TO ACTION

To get involved with Reach Beyond through praying, giving or going, visit reachbeyond.org.



UNEXPECTED PARTNERSHIP

The following story came as a result of Reach Beyond's partnership with SonSet Solutions (formerly HCJB Global Technology Center) in Elkhart, Ind.

When Reach Beyond and its local partners establish Christian radio stations to broadcast the gospel to the unreached, install clean water wells or conduct medical clinics for the poor and impoverished, the goal is to help people amid difficult circumstances. But the far greater goal is introducing people to Jesus so they can begin a relationship with Him.

When short-term teams succeed in only the first half of the mission, but people aren't open to the gospel, there's always a sense of disappointment—a goal only half accomplished. However, these situations only serve as a reminder of a beautiful truth: God is the one who controls the outcome of our efforts to reach people.

According to *Operation World*, Mali is one of the least-reached nations in Africa at just 0.7-percent evangelical. That's a situation Reach Beyond and its partners are determined to solve by God's grace.

On a recent trip, a team of volunteers went to Mali to install clean water pumps, but more importantly they planned to share the gospel via audio players that are loaded with Scriptures and other Christian content.

The villagers were grateful for the pumps, but to the dismay of the team, they wanted nothing to do with the gospel and showed no interest in the 18 "audio Bibles" that they had hoped to distribute. The sets were still packed in their suitcases as they prepared to return to the U.S.

However, God had other plans for these devices....



While waiting in line at a restaurant for their final dinner in Mali, team members began conversing with a man from South Korea whom they quickly learned was a medical missionary headed to a remote hospital 180 miles away. During the conversation, the Korean man lamented that his team had run out of Bibles and resources to share with the patients they would be treating.

Stunned by this statement, one of the team members quickly returned to his hotel room, retrieved the audio Bibles and ran back to the restaurant where he laid the box at the feet of the Korean missionary.

He accepted the gift, shocked at what God had just arranged, and took the 18 players to the hospital in one of Mali's least-reached areas. Instead of going to 18 people in the village, the players went to 18 families in a part of the nation where few knew about Jesus.

Often our disappointments are God's surprises. What started out as a profound disappointment ended up being what the missionary called a "divinely appointed miracle."

God is at work in amazing ways around the world. As Christ-followers, we get the blessing of participating in His plans even when they don't seem to make sense.

CALL TO ACTION

As we begin 2017, consider becoming a part of God's incredible, often mysterious plan to reach those who have never heard the name of Jesus.

Act now at reachbeyond.org.

IS GOD TUGGING AT YOUR HEART TO SERVE?

Check out ways you can make an
eternal impact at reachbeyond.org/go
or contact Jenna King at
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