

# connections

— a prayer and missions journal —

summer 2022 —

## 4 Extending the Table of Friendship in Africa



served by SEAPC

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*Cover photo is of prayer during the Friends Around the Table 2022 gathering in South Africa. Back cover photo by Living Word Photography.*



# SEAPC

Changing Lives Through Prayer

SEAPC Magazine is a publication of South East Asia Prayer Center (SEAPC).  
Free copies are available through our office and online.

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Our vision is to witness  
a world connected  
through prayer  
that brings  
Christ-based change  
to those in need.

**As a junior in high school, I was part of a 4x100 relay team that competed in the state championships and overcame incredible odds to set our school record.**

Coming into the season, our coaches knew that we were not the fastest in the district, but they told us that if we were willing to perfect our timing, handoffs, and positioning, we could beat the competition. I ran the third leg of the relay. Our closer, Fritz Tamburro, was very fast. My first responsibility was to yell “fly” at the exact step on the track that would release him to begin sprinting. If I did this correctly, I would reach Fritz at the precise moment when his speed was matched to my top speed. The next job I had was to say “stick” and perfectly place the baton into his hand, in stride, before he crossed the designated hand-off zone. When we got it right, Fritz usually crossed the finish line first. Together, we won the district.

As they say, “Timing is everything!” That was certainly the truth for our relay team, and I believe it is also true for our vision to witness a world connected in prayer that meets the needs of the people. Today, we have finally reached the timing in God to physically GO out into the nations again. Over these past two years at SEAPC, we have been faithful to wait in prayer, work on our positioning, practice our disciplines, and learn God’s new ways for a new movement in Him. This movement, I believe, will lead us to the finish line in Christ, the place where every man, woman, and child has had the opportunity to know Jesus Christ.

SEAPC is a global Christian community of friends who believe that lives and nations are changed through prayer. We are a network that prioritizes prayer, and we are passionate about meeting the needs of others. A network like this, combined with a multitude of other networks of the same kind, equals a movement. As you read through this prayer and missions journal, you will see how God has brought these networks together from every corner of the earth while we have all been waiting so that He could send us out seamlessly, unbound, and undivided to fill the earth with His goodness and compassion.

No matter where you are today or what is happening around you right now, please join me in embracing this moment. God is calling you to GO! And if you can submit to going wherever He leads you in prayer according to His will and His way, you will never be alone, and you will be surrounded by friends like those in this journal who are willing to run with you in this race. 🌍

# wait for it, wait for it... now, GO!

by

Matthew Geppert  
President, SEAPC





# THE TABLE OF FRIENDSHIP

by  
John Paul Sprecher

**Friendship, Nations, and the Father's Table.** Individually each of these stirs and grips the heart. Not only our own, but throughout Scripture, they do the same for God. God is a gatherer. God is relational. God is the Father of nations. He must be Himself! Oftentimes, even in our Christian culture, we tend to amass so many opinions and perspectives about God, that we run the risk of losing sight of His nature that was never to become abstract or vague (Ephesians 5:17). In learning, we must come to the actual knowledge of the Truth. I don't believe this will cause us to be over-simplistic, or miss out on anything God has for us. I strongly believe this will have the opposite effect. Returning to the nature of who God is liberates everything to come pouring out from Him! The "means" are very important to Him, not just the "end." Just turn on the news or scroll on your phone and you see the desperate tug of war for power and resource in our world. It can get very nasty. It can get very hard to witness. The quest for humanity's need for knowledge and resource apart from the fathering presence of God is a blueprint for chaos. And the more greed and instability that comes, the more we need His leadership to free us from what we have created.

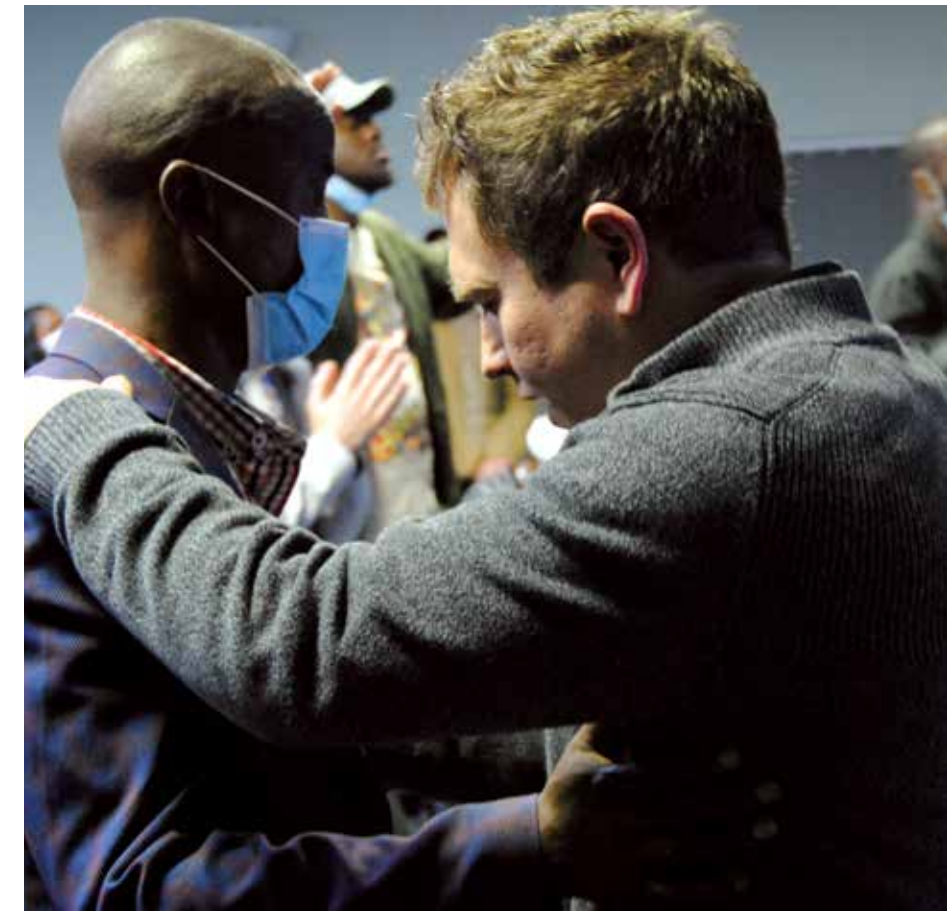
This is why I believe so much in the vision of Friends Around the Table. It's not just a

trend or a good plan. It's a vision that returns us to the place of relationship, perspective, and provision we are created for.

## Growing Friends Across Nations

Over three years ago, Matt Geppert shared with me his heart to see Friends expand into four regions of the globe and to see that expansion take place quarterly within a calendar year. My initial thoughts were huge excitement and expectation, but I also quickly began to see just how vital this step of faith would become. Very soon after this conversation, the nations entered into a global pandemic. No nation was prepared for it, but God remained ready to be Himself. God remained poised to lead His church to be His presence on the earth. The power of stability in times of shaking cannot be overestimated. Friendship across the Nations, converging together in Jesus at the Father's Table, became that stability. May we never drift from that place. Let us never become too complex that we miss the powerful simplicity of where He is taking us and where He wants us to remain.

In March, together as friends, we as an SEAPC community hosted our first Friends gathering in the continent of Africa! There had been opposition from our adversary





on many levels, but he is a loser and a defeated foe. What we witnessed in Johannesburg was God’s overwhelming “Yes!” *Yes, I am with you. Yes, I am able. Yes, I make all things new!* Many hearts and hands, all full of the Holy Spirit, living on both sides of the Atlantic made this vision a reality. Both Matt and I had traveled to Africa over the years, and the number of SEAPC friends has grown substantially through relationships on the continent. This year was the time to gather, pray, and receive the feast our Father had prepared for us! And a feast it has truly been. 250 emerging leaders in South Africa joined us first for an “Emerging Generation Intensive.” Here, young leaders gained the understanding to lead their generation with wisdom, prayer, and dynamic unity. Soon after, we hosted more than 35 friends from eight African nations, each leading nation-changing churches and ministries within Africa. The Table was set, and the atmosphere was charged with faith! From the first night, it was very clear that God had been leading every one of us to believe for greater things to be accomplished as we met. This was not just another meeting. This is not going to be typical. These are not typical days, and God is going to lead us where He knows we must be.

Over the next three days, we saw impassioned prayers released towards heaven, and each friend around the Table shared real struggles and victories that took place during the past 2 years. Tears came, and shouts of praise were made. Testimonies flowed, and the vision for a brighter future was cast and prayed into by everyone present. Each day we surrounded friends from the different regions of Africa with prophetic prayer. This is at the core of every Friends Around the Table gathering. Witnessing how God unites lives through the prayer we receive from each other is difficult to put into words. Being surrounded by our African brothers and sisters, hearing their stories and dreams, and then hearing the Lord prophesy and confirm His will for them, has created true friendship



that is leading to long lasting fruit.

Our friends from the Central, East, and Southern African nations shared over and over how the value of authentic friendship around the Table is what will bring transfigurative change to the places they live. “We must model this! We must live this out! We must help the generations coming after us see this!”

Pastor Reuben Tagoe from River of Life Johannesburg shared, “The way of selflessness from friendship, the way Jesus taught, will end the curse of poverty in our country.” Witnessing the way God encouraged and Spiritually fed every person, through every person, is the Table made manifest.

## A Faithful Servant Church

Surrounding everything at our first Friends Africa was our phenomenal hosts, Acts Church Johannesburg. I have had the joy of getting to know, receiving from, and serving this family of churches throughout South Africa over the past six years. Acts Church is an anchor church for the nation and a powerful voice for the Kingdom in Southern Africa. The Lord has led Pastor Peter and Tammy de’Fin and the generations of their family all the way back to British Evangelist Smith Wigglesworth to help send the church into the nations. As we gathered together in March, we were surrounded by this legacy of faith and mission. Acts teams and ministry leaders blessed and poured out all they could



into us. This has become our home in Africa, and we look forward to returning to Acts Church for Friends Africa in 2023!

Our hope, as we host Friends Around the Table in any part of the world, and especially as it is launched in a new continent, is that the Table will continue to grow and nourish the nations after the point of gathering. Friends Africa has been a deluge of momentum since Johannesburg, and we are so humbled by it. Friendships continue through daily and weekly calls and communications continent-wide. Eighteen African nations and people groups have either finished or are in process of translating prayer walking resources to mobilize national prayer. Short-term mission teams are preparing to go and serve our friends. The exchange of prayer and partnership is happening organically by the Holy Spirit. An emerging generation is being activated in their voice of prayer, and how to come to the Table with those who came before them. Healings of blind eyes, limbs, and salvation of hearts and souls which took place during the outreaches of Friends Africa continue to happen daily in the updates we receive. God is worthy of all the praise!

Friends Africa 2022 also saw us welcome Gerhard and Bernice Le Roux as the Friends Africa Directors. This couple has been long-time friends of SEAPC, leaders at Acts Church, and have served the nations of Africa dynamically in both Kingdom ministry and



business. We look forward to sharing more about them and seeing friends across the SEAPC community connect with them in the days to come.

## Hope for the Future

Looking toward what’s to come, please continue to pray for the growing Table of Friendship in Africa. “Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain...” (Psalm 127:1). The people of Africa have seen much over their history. There have been many horrors, but there have also been many miracles. Through it all, there is a resilience of hope that has not faded. The Church in Africa carries much that the world needs today. Faith, passion, resolve, and trust in what cannot be seen with the natural eye. All these values endure in God’s people here. As a global community of Friends, surrounding our African brothers and sisters with friendship, value and affirming faith in who they are in Christ will impact this continent at its deepest place. By returning to where we began (Friendship, Nations, and the Father’s Table) we will witness Africa receive everything God has given, and give to all God has destined. Please watch this space! Many more opportunities to PRAY, GIVE and GO into Africa will be shared. A door has been opened to us that no man can shut. Africa will not only be saved but it will be sent into all the nations! This is a great promise of God, and we believe this is the time we will see it fulfilled! 🌍





# MAKING PROGRESS FOR FAMILIES



by  
Gail Ding

**God has sent us to the lost sheep.** After starting with services to children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their teachers, God has opened a new door for us to support their families and also families who suffer from depression, anxiety, addiction, or emotional disorders. We are able to minister to them using Bible counseling, ABA techniques, and family therapy. God has revealed numerous needs around us: shadow teachers, parents of ASD families, parents of Christian youth fellowships, teenagers in middle schools and high schools. For example, Gail contacted some families of ASD children in Shanghai who said their greatest need is counseling for parents, not their children, because there are sufficient online courses for children.

## New Resources

At present, Zhishan Community Development Center, a Christian NGO committed to community services, is organizing people and resources to meet the needs in this field. The first meeting was held between Zhishan Inclusive Education Project and two important Christian counselors, each of whom has a team able to serve in this field. A parent organization has just launched

free psychology tests for the first 200 parents with disabled children, and the organizer wants to cooperate with Zhishan to serve those identified by the tests to have depression or other psychological disorders. A company by the name of Xingtuofu wants Zhishan to set in motion a service providing shadow teachers with psychological counseling. Zhishan will also put in place a separate project specifically aiming to help youth with depression which will offer affordable counseling services and give financial sponsorship to those poor families who suffer from depression.

Thanks to your prayer support, our friends John and Lydia have successfully concluded their first case of a young girl with mild depression, and the whole family was brought to Jesus. Currently, I am studying Biblical counseling, and so will John and Lydia. As we move forward with this project, we need more prayers and more people, especially those who are well trained to join us. We also need your prayer support in our services for two families, one with a child suffering from severe depression and the other with a boy suffering from an internet addiction.

God continues to use us to expand ABA training for Christian centers of treatment. The Xinjiang

center has begun to serve local children with ASD, and this month, Xingjiang center will organize a few lectures for public schools and teachers who need the support of inclusive education. A Chengdu center has just finished its ABA training at the basic level and is preparing transitional classes and training of shadow teachers. We will continue to meet their training needs. Those shadow teachers, together with the center, will be pioneers in Chengdu to build up inclusive education locally. This Chengdu center happens to have strong psychological counseling background, which will help our project needs for psychological counseling in turn. God's hand is with us.

In addition, Zhishan is considering setting up community centers for people with disabilities, which will function like group homes for them. We are looking for cooperation with community administrations. We are also in need of professional training on how to set up or manage such group homes leveraging the best practices from other countries. Please pray for us as we embark on this new journey! 🌍



# a prayer person is a mission person

by  
Mark Geppert

## **I became a person of prayer through the influence of my parents, pastor, and public schools.**

My parents, pastor, and public schools made me a person of prayer.

My parents taught me to pray early on with morning and evening devotions. I heard my parents' natural, unforced conversation with God and knew He was hearing them. Talking things over with Jesus was a regular part of our family routine. No one went out the door, got in bed, or ate a bite of food without a prayer. All four of us children were prayer people from childhood.

I had a collection of attendance pins for Presbyterian Sunday School spanning 16 years. That's 832 opening prayers. In Sunday School we learned God is love and is deeply invested in our lives. In church, we learned God hears everything we bring to Him, no matter how big or small.

In school, for the first eight years,

we began every day with The Lord's Prayer. All of us were becoming people of prayer. While it didn't have the depth of my mother's morning devotions, it put the thought of Our Father into our minds and delivered us from the evil one.

My parents had promised to bring me up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and to their credit, they did all they could to make me a man of prayer.

## **Good Influences**

I became a man of mission through the Lord's sovereign process, a couple of good examples, and a pastor who had the nations on his heart.

Audibly God spoke to me saying, "I am calling you to preach my gospel to the nations." We had been learning the voice of God for our lives in our local church. Very little of "God has said" got past my pastor's "Where in the Bible do you find that?" When I

excitedly phoned him with the news of my calling, he calmly instructed me to come straight to his office. It was a Monday in July. He opened his prayer journal to the previous October to show me the day the Lord had spoken that He was calling me. We rejoiced and I went home to talk with my wife.

Ellie was quite strong. She said since it was God she would walk with me through this; but, if I ever stopped serving God, she was gone. She, too, was a person of prayer. She, too, had a conversational relationship with the Creator of the Universe and understood He is her Father, and I have to answer to Him for how I treat her.

To prepare for ministry, we went to a Bible school established by career missionaries. Though we never had a class called "missions," we drank deeply of their relationship with God. We especially felt His presence when they shared about His keeping hand upon them and His ability to break

through for the world's unreached peoples. We sat spellbound hearing of the miracles of God and His love for those who serve Him.

Eventually, we headed to Guatemala to see if we had become Mission People. We had prayer in our hearts; but, did we have mission? You never know until you go.

We were asked to rebuild a village devastated by an earthquake. Ellie and I traversed the side of a volcano to visit the village. Seeing 150 homes destroyed and hundreds of people without hope, we got involved. While driving back up the mountain we were engrossed in conversation about how to help these people, and I pulled out to pass another vehicle. Careening

down the mountain was a Blue Bird Bus filled with pigs, chickens, and people. The truck beside me slowed. The bus was not stopping. The road could barely hold two, let alone three, vehicles. I touched the brakes, the motor failed, we bowed our heads and said, "Jesus."

When we lifted our heads, we were parked at the side of the road, in first gear with the parking brake set. The motor was off. The bus was at the bottom of the hill continuing its merry way. We looked at each other and rejoiced. Prayer and mission had come together.

Several weeks later, the village mayor, a man who had mocked converts, fell 171 feet to his death

while digging a well for clean water for his people. For centuries they had walked down a mountain path to the Motagua River to get water which was so bad no one should ever drink it. As I helped the rescue squad retrieve his lifeless body, prayer erupted in my heart in a way I had never known. Rapidly, I drove into the city, and Ellie and I sat on the floor of our prayer room and let out a cry to God that sounded as if we had lost our minds.

Mission had come together with prayer in our lives. They cannot — they must not — be separated. There is no such thing as a prayer person without mission and there is no such thing as a mission person without prayer. 🙏



Mark Geppert (center, wearing sunglasses)  
listening to a teaching in Guatemala, 1983.

Mission  
had come  
together  
with prayer  
in our lives.  
They cannot  
— they must  
not — be  
separated.



Your partnership through praying, giving, and going are bringing us one step closer to witnessing a world connected through prayer that brings Christ-based change to those in need. Please consider standing with us in the following areas in the months ahead.

# PRAY

## **CARE Autism**

In 2021, Gail and Lydia received their degrees from Cairn University in the USA and passed their BCBA exams for serving children and families with autism. They are now training many others so that children can be served throughout China. Pray for this effort and for more key leaders to rise up within CARE as it expands.



Gail (in red jacket) with teachers training to serve families affected by for autism.

# GIVE

## **Translations of our prayer walking guide and The Attack Lambs**



Friends Around the Table led to the commitment by leaders of multiple countries to get the prayer walking guide and *The Attack Lambs* materials translated into local languages for distribution throughout the African continent. Their hearts are burning to mobilize prayer walking. A gift of \$60 will help meet the needs of someone who is helping with the translation of the prayer guide into a local language.

# GO

## **Prayer Walking Training**

SEAPC is providing several in-person prayer walking trainings throughout the USA in 2022. Attend one of these trainings and learn keys to shift the atmosphere around you wherever you are. Go to [prayamericas.com/training](https://prayamericas.com/training) to join us at one near you.





# hand in hand

*Your right hand  
has held me up.*

*Psalms 18:35*



*by*  
Laurel Houck

**Jesus imparted His wisdom before He ascended to the Father after His resurrection.** He called us to faith accompanied by action; together they give our lives meaning and purpose. But God does not expect us to do it all on our own. His right hand holds us up. And He provides other believers to walk with us through joys, sorrows, and service, hand-in-hand.

International Full Gospel Fellowship (IFGF) and South East Asia Prayer Center (SEAPC) have been walking together in ministry for many years. They share the DNA of the early church to connect with God and make disciples through love and compassion. The picture of their relationship is clear: hands clasped in the temporal world as they serve in the supernatural world of faith in action.

IFGF's inception began in a very non-traditional way, with leaders called out of their own plans into God's purpose. Over 900 years before Jesus was born, Proverbs 16:9 put it this way: "A man's mind plans his way (as he journeys through life), but the Lord directs his steps and establishes them." (Amplified Bible)

Pastor Daniel, on the Apostolic Board

for Mission and Church Planting for IFGF, is without a doubt a man on a mission in the truest sense. He is down-to-earth, direct, and has an easy, infectious laugh that is a pleasure to hear. He relates the story of IFGF, which is the story of God moving in a deliberate way, and everyone else playing catch-up.

In the mid-1970s, an astonishing move of the Holy Spirit began within the community of Indonesian students studying in the United States. Young people from middle school to high school developed a thirst for Jesus. Pastor Jimmy — at that time, just Jimmy — organized crusades around this movement. Many were saved, but they had no church to attend or to foster their spiritual growth.

For four years, young people gathered in small groups in homes, adding to their number. Still, no one thought about starting a church — because everyone was pursuing their own plans. Until one day when a young couple wanted to marry and didn't know where to go. Daniel and others, who were developing careers in engineering and business, decided they had best go to Bible school instead. And start a church. Fast forward to today. That one church is now 3,500 churches worldwide in 46 countries.

Photo by Cayn Werner.



“It’s all about spiritual warfare. In any war, the Air Force has to take out the planes before the army takes the land. Prayer takes out the enemy in advance of our work.” — *Pastor Daniel*



Photo courtesy of IFGF.

## Kindred Spirits

SEAPC first met IFGF in Seattle, Washington, during a board meeting in 2009. Board member Don Quinn introduced Mark and Matt Geppert to Pastor Irwan, head of the USA district and Lead Pastor at IFGF Seattle. He went on to help SEAPC to raise funds to build a children’s home in Cambodia. Hands were clasped. Relationships were born.

Six years ago, JP Sprecher, SEAPC’s International Missions Director, met Pastor Irwan. As SEAPC developed the Pacific Rim Prayer Center in Seattle, these two men of God furthered a relationship towards ministry in Seattle and in the nations. Three years later, JP met Pastor Daniel. They discovered that there were many things their organizations could accomplish together.

SEAPC saw kindred spirits at IFGF, with both ministries’ passion and vision for unreached people, especially in Muslim and Buddhist nations. They share real pioneering hearts. And as they grew together, IFGF wanted to train their leaders and missionaries in effective prayer that would extend to difficult and unreached places. They were drawn to prayer walking and to the teaching in *The Attack Lambs*, a landmark book by Mark Geppert.

Pastor Daniel sees much crossover in the work of IFGF and SEAPC. “There is teaching in every part of our training process. We have many projects to partner in.”

God had to have brought the two ministries together because Pastor Daniel has his own unique take on intercessors. “They [SEAPC] are committed to missions, and their stance on the spiritual world is unique.”

As IFGF is primarily about apostolic ministry, the connection to prayer through SEAPC is a significant component in accomplishing their goals. Prayer is recognized as an integral beginning to any endeavor for the Lord. “It’s all about spiritual warfare,” Pastor Daniel said. “In any war, the Air Force has to take out the planes before the army takes the land. Prayer takes out the enemy in advance of our work.”

## Miraculous Intervention

Through prayer, God has intervened multiple times to protect His workers. In Borneo, local witch doctors attempted to kill Pastor Daniel with “black magic spells.” Already covered in prayer, he in turn prayed for those who had set out to take his life. Those assisting the witch doctors gave their lives to Jesus. The two people who had evil intentions died.

Recently, Pastor Daniel felt called to prayer walk in Makkah, which is in the administrative hub of the Mecca Province. This city in Saudi Arabia is the sacred center of pilgrimage and prayer for Muslims, free from worldly distractions. It is the birthplace of Muhammad and Islam; only Muslims are permitted to visit. Entry is strictly regulated and enforced by the police.

As they approached the city, multiple lanes in the road converged on a line of guard booths manned by police. Pastor Daniel and his companion had no idea which line to enter. They chose one and inched ahead in bumper-to-bumper traffic. When they reached the front of the line, the booths on both their left and right had officials examining passenger documents. The booth they passed stood empty. They drove straight through. And claimed the ground in Mecca for

the Lord Jesus.

IFGF has a heart for the Muslim world, and they approach their mission with boots on the ground. Beginning with one-on-one evangelism, they go from house to house on street to street, telling anyone who will listen about the story of Jesus. This is followed up with fellowship and training.

It is a total God-thing that IFGF has opened eighty churches in Pakistan alone. Christians in this nation are forcibly put into isolated colonies. They are underserved, kept poor, and persecuted. A true surprise is that many of these churches are within two hundred feet of mosques. God has used this proximity to mosques — as He uses everything for His sovereign purposes — to bring Muslims to faith.

“Many people are demon-possessed,” Pastor Daniel relates. “We fight the spiritual battle, cast out the demons in Jesus’ name, and make disciples. They then open a house church.”

Eventually, as more people come to believe, homes are outgrown and churches open — next to the mosque. Because the ground was plowed in prayer long before there were feet walking through the sand to plant.

Much harvest is happening. Muslims are being evangelized by converted Muslims. The Pakistani churches — which are a miracle in themselves — have planted 16 satellite churches in Islamabad. The capital of Pakistan, Islamabad means “City of Islam” and boasts 96% of the metropolitan population of over 4.1 million souls are Muslim. It is home to the largest mosque in South Asia. And now it is also home to those 16 new Christian churches. There is so much more to do, and it is hard. But God is holding on to IFGF as they go into battle. And the battles are being won because they belong to the Lord.

## Spiritual Education and Care

IFGF has also opened seven Bible colleges, with a goal of 20 total schools. The main campus in Indonesia is accredited by the Department of Education and includes both master’s and Ph.D. programs. Part of their permanent curriculum is *The Attack Lambs*, considered to be critical in the context of their goals. Spiritual warfare must be won first, especially when people are hearing the Gospel for the first time.

At present, Pastor Daniel has a great burden for the Afghan people. “They are isolated from the world. Their health infrastructure has collapsed. There is famine. This provides a great opportunity to bring the gospel to them.”

Pastor Daniel wants to build a hospital in Pakistan

close to the Afghan border. It would be open to Afghanis for medical care and to provide food for the hungry, without a need for papers to cross from one nation to the other. He sees this project as the key to reaching the Afghan people.

To that end, Pastor Daniel traveled to Chaman, a city on the border of Pakistan and Afghanistan. This crossing saw a mass entry of Afghan citizens in August of 2021 after the Taliban’s takeover of the country. The thousands who crossed included patients seeking medical care and freed Taliban prisoners.

Pastor Daniel had two meetings in Chaman. He met with a Taliban chief who arrived in his own car. They changed cars four times before reaching a secure meeting place. The man had many questions as Pastor Daniel introduced the hospital project. “You are a Christian. Why would you do this?”

Pastor Daniel had a ready answer. “Jesus wants us to help anyone, regardless of their religion.” The Taliban leader agreed to let people cross the border to access medical care.

The second meeting was with a high ranking military official in Pakistan. After hearing about the proposed project, he agreed to open the border to Afghan citizens who needed medical care. In addition, he promised to provide a secure military perimeter to keep patients and workers safe.

What lies ahead for International Full Gospel Fellowship? They put their trust fully in God’s will. At present, the hospital in Pakistan is uppermost in Pastor Daniel’s mind. He is praying — and asking for prayer — that this project goes from dream to reality. And that once built, God will call the United Nations, Doctors Without Borders, and any other agencies to bring in workers. Perhaps even a visit from an SEAPC team.

To that end, SEAPC will stand in the gap in spiritual combat through prayer. Both groups echo the same commitment: to honor God’s will, to reach the unreached, and to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20). And then Jesus adds this: “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

These many years later, God is still holding up His disciples, who are serving hand-in-hand. May His Kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen. 🌍





# *a small part of big things*

by  
Brad McKoy



U.S.

What would it look like to engage the United States as a mission field? What does it mean to ask God to show us our portion in the team effort? What would happen if we confidently reached out and equipped the workers for a cost-to-coast harvest?

**When I hear the testimonies of God’s faithfulness through the last 30 years, I am so humbled to be a part of the global community of friends here at SEAPC.** I remember the day that I met Mark Geppert nearly 20 years ago and the encouragement that flooded my heart as I heard the stories of what God was doing across Cambodia, Indonesia, China, and Guatemala. As a young church planter, these testimonies were like fuel for our journey.

Both my wife, Adriane, and I had grown up with a heart for missions. I have to admit that I felt a little gipped when I sensed the Lord asking me if I would be willing to view the United States as a mission field. That didn’t seem nearly as exciting as going to some faraway place where people had never heard the name of Jesus. When I had given God my ‘Here am I, send me,’ I definitely expected something different.

But God had been clear. After seven years serving a local church in the Bible-belt, we sensed God calling us to a small town outside of Pittsburgh to “be and do church for people who would never go through the doors of a church.” We sensed that this was what seeing the U.S. as a mission field looked like for us in that season.

I wept as I listened to Mark share stories of lives changed in the underground church of China, and God’s promise to raise up a generation out of the killing fields of Cambodia. *God, what would it look like to see these stories happen here across the United States?* While I wasn’t sure of what it would look like, I was convinced afresh that the power of the good news of Jesus was spreading, transforming lives, and changing nations.

Through the years, our understanding of what it means to engage the United States as a mission field has continued to grow and evolve. We are grateful to God for the small part that He has allowed us to play in discipling, equipping, and sending out young leaders to impact every sphere of society for the glory of God. It was especially humbling when our friend, Matt Geppert, invited us to join the team at SEAPC to help serve the vision of engaging the United States as a mission field.





Our team has been praying and working through a strategy that allows us to connect, serve, and mobilize the existing relationships that God has entrusted to us.

For years, we had carried a vision of mobilizing everyday followers of Jesus in giving themselves to prayer and to living out the gospel in their own communities, believing that as we did that, many would be called to cities across the nation and beyond. In 2005, we began carrying a vision to see sending communities that would function as regional hubs established in strategic cities across the nation. As I met and prayed with Matt and with other leaders from the SEAPC team, I was astounded by the way that what we had been carrying in our hearts for the U.S. seemed to be in alignment for what the team was believing to see happening across the earth.

### Partnering with the YES!

One of the most important things that I have learned from being a part of a team that has witnessed miraculous moves of God around the earth, is that it is better to be a small part of a big thing than a big part of a small thing. Practically, this has meant asking the Lord to show us what our portion is as a team. One way that we have done this is by connecting with some of the strategic partners our team has worked with in the nations and listening to them about what they are sensing in the U.S.

It was in one of those conversations with our friends at Every Home for Christ that I felt the Lord shining His light, and bringing clarity to how we could

serve what He was doing across our nation. In our conversations, both Scott Middlebrook and David Schaal shared about the need for God's people to be empowered to share the good news of God's love with their family, friends, and neighbors. Their research showed that 74 percent of the believers they surveyed prayed at least once a month for opportunities to share their faith, with 40 percent saying that they prayed that prayer on a daily basis. Yet in that same group, only 15 percent felt confident and free to share their faith with obstacles hindering them.

Their team had been working hard to create resources for local pastors and church leaders to deal with the most common barriers that people faced in sharing their faith that had come up in their research. As I listened to these friends, I felt sad that so many believers reported these roadblocks, but there was also really positive news in the research. I was encouraged that so many believers reported wanting to be a part of sharing the good news. Could it be that part of what God was leading our team to focus on partnering with the YES in the hearts of His people to multiply workers for His great harvest?

Another thing that we learned from our friends at EveryHome USA was that many of the people who were surveyed were already consistently *praying* for opportunities to share the gospel. As a prayer ministry, we began to seek the Lord for ways that we could meet

these believers where they were in prayer, and serve and equip them to be ready and confident to engage the world around them with the good news of God's love. As we prayed, we became even more convinced of the need to multiply our prayer walking trainings, and continue to make *The Attack Lambs* resources available to as many people as we could.

### Focused Next Steps

Over the past several months, our team has been praying and working through a strategy that allows us to connect, serve, and mobilize the existing relationships that God has entrusted to us. One way that we have started putting this in practice is by partnering with EveryHome USA by inviting them to bring their Revive Mission Collective initiative to Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio. David Schaal shared with pastors in Pittsburgh, Youngstown, and Grove City about how testimonies of simple stories from the life of Jesus are one of the most effective ways to empower people to overcome the roadblocks that keep them from sharing their faith. The pastors then received training resources to take back to their churches to begin mobilizing people to spread the gospel.

Our team was able to reach out to many of those leaders and invite them to connect with each other for a follow-up conversation about how to implement

what they had learned. They also took time to get to know one another and pray for each other. Real gospel partnerships are forming around the table of friendship.

After the round table, we found a hunger among the leaders to see their people equipped. A local pastor was willing to host a regional prayer walking training where at least 75 people from 10 different churches came together for a weekend of learning and practicing this simple prayer and mission strategy. There have already been reports of how the gospel is spreading and people are coming to Jesus and being baptized. Other churches are now planning community prayer walks and are wanting to make the training available for believers in their communities.

As I think about what it looks like to engage the United States as a mission field, my heart is confident that God is working and that He is multiplying workers for His harvest here. From coast to coast, people are reaching out with a hunger to be equipped to co-operate in seeing the good news spread.

If you have a YES in your heart to see the good news of Jesus, would you join with us as we go, pray, and engage our communities with God's love? Go to **prayamericas.com** to be a part of the 40 Days of United Prayer this summer, and to learn about prayer walking trainings and resources. 🌍





# build a habit of prayer walking

by  
Brad McKoy

When we pray, God listens.

When we prayer walk,  
we position ourselves to  
co-operate in the mission  
of God around us.

**During my sophomore year of college, I had the opportunity to do a mission internship in the United Kingdom.** While I had visions of sparking the next Welsh Revival during my semester abroad, the greatest move of God I witnessed was the work of the Spirit inside my own heart. My time in Wales was humbling as God reoriented my understanding of missions and the importance of investing the gospel into a handful of hungry hearts. Perhaps the most lasting takeaway from my time away was learning how to prayer walk.

It happened by accident as I walked and whined to God about an assignment to hand-deliver thousands of Christmas cards to people's homes. But my complaining became communion as the Holy Spirit graciously met me during those weeks. Through the freezing drizzle, my attitude began to change as I remembered the many Scriptures portraying God relating to humankind as He walked with them. From Adam and Eve in the garden through the resurrected Jesus joining two friends on the road to Emmaus, there is an invitation from God to walk with Him, keeping in step with His Spirit.

When the Christmas cards were delivered, I realized I didn't want to be done with this new routine. I

began walking my village, asking for God's perspective on the people living there. Soon, I was spending my days off taking the bus to nearby cities to prayer walk and listen. Since then, prayer walking has been one of the simplest and most effective ways to follow Jesus into a lifestyle of prayer and mission.

God has graced me to learn more about prayer walking from several missionary pioneers. Mark Geppert and Floyd McClung have impacted the nations and were gracious to share their experiences in prayer and missions with me. From Mark, I learned the meaning of intercession (to intervene between parties with a view to reconciling differences) and how to carry the presence of God into every situation. From Floyd, I learned the value of intentionally investing the gospel where I live and how to point people towards Jesus. The intersection of what I learned from these men helped me form a value for intercession intermingled with mission.

When we pray, God listens. When we prayer walk, we position ourselves to co-operate in the mission of God around us. There are people around us who are hurting and hungry for the love and power of God to change their lives. We can engage them. Come on. Let's Go. 🙌

## three keys for impacting the world for Jesus:

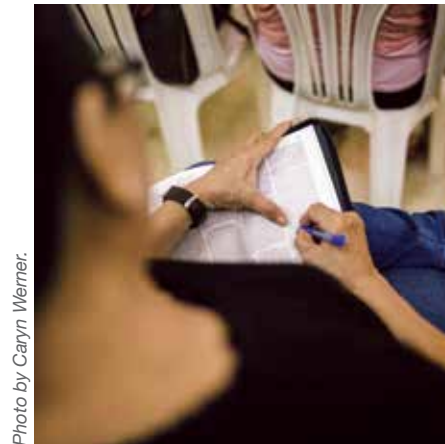


Photo by Caryn Werner.

### Intimacy - Created to Walk with God

Before I engage in prayer walking as outward mission, it is helpful for me to spend time communing with God. In my personal prayer walks, this often looks like spending the first part of my time in worship. Sometimes this looks like putting some music on; other times, praise flows from intentional thanksgiving. I also try to be quiet and ask God if there is anything in our relationship He wants to highlight. Sometimes, I feel vulnerable with this type of connection with God, but I remind myself it is not my idea to seek God's face (Psalm 27:8). In these times, I ask God to help me know how to pray and walk with Him and remember He wants me to abide in Him more than I do.



### Invitation - Co-operating with God

As we walk and talk with God, our hearts align with His, and we are prepared for intercession. In prayer walking, we get to practice listening for what is on God's heart for the people, places, and things around us. Then, we have the honor of seeking God's best over our communities, praying for his kingdom to come and his best desires to be established on earth as they are in heaven. As we pray this way, inviting God to move, He often invites us to be a part of what He wants to do. I am stunned when I think back to how many times significant relationships and sovereign mission opportunities have flowed out of seasons of simply showing up to walk and pray.



Photo by Caryn Werner.

### Incarnation - The Power of Being Present

Perhaps the greatest lesson I have learned about prayer walking is the incredible ways God will move just because someone showed up. As we pray, "God, lead us to hungry hearts," open our front doors and step out into the mission field around us, we can trust God to answer our prayers and guide our steps. I recently heard a young man's testimony who accepted Jesus after meeting a few friends playing basketball. He didn't know those friends were intentionally carrying the presence of God to the courts, expecting God to connect them with hungry hearts. This young man didn't find Jesus because of his new friends' exceptional evangelism skills or how well they played basketball, but because they showed up and were intentional in sharing Jesus with him as they built lasting friendships.





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