# Editorial Decade Of Harvest Dr Jason Hubbard

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Decade of Harvest – the Convergence of Gospel and Prayer Movements.

This year marks 300 years since the founding of the Moravian community in Herrnhut, Germany. Back in 1722, a group of 300 Bohemian Moravians fleeing persecution, arrived in north-eastern Germany. A wealthy aristocrat, named Count Zinzendorf, offered them refuge on his estate to build a small community named Herrnhut, which means "the watch of the Lord."

On August 13, 1727, during a communion service, they experienced a powerful move of God – an intense sense of God’s love for one another and for lost people beyond their community. What followed was focused, united, and strategic prayer that continued day and night for one hundred years. As men, women, and children prayed around the clock, God called missionaries amongst them. More than 300 people responded, and they helped establish over 5 thousand missionary settlements around the world.

Their love for Jesus compelled them to pray night and day and bring his love to the nations. Their purpose and mandate was to “Win for the Lamb who was slain, the due reward for his suffering,” and their motto was, “Our Lamb has conquered, let us follow Him.”

Today, I believe, we are seeing their vision for prayer being reborn. 2033 marks 2000 years of the Great Commission and the birthday of the Church. As we draw closer to this significant milestone, God is inviting us to a decade of harvest, where the human cooperation in prayer and the empowered proclamation of the gospel has begun to intersect with the divine sovereignty of God.

COVID-19 Draws Together Prayer and Gospel Movements

As COVID-19 spread globally, millions of believers joined together in prayer – from Indonesia to South Africa, India to Brazil, North Africa to the Middle East. They asked God the Father to give his Son, the Lord Jesus, the nations as his inheritance. While they prayed, the Church grew. One of the largest house church networks reported that during this period they grew from 2 million house churches to close to 3 million. This added 20 million new Jesus followers in just a few years! This is just one example of how prayer and gospel movements are converging.

However, a massive amount of the Great Commission work remains. Even after 2000 years of Church history these spiritual realities continue:

80 percent of the world’s Muslims still do not know a single Christian.

1,708 people groups do not have a Bible in their own language.

1.8 million people in the 100 largest remaining unreached people groups, mostly in South Asia, remain only one percent Christian.

And if we continue to do what we have been doing, 500 million Chinese will never hear the good news of Jesus.

Jesus shared this tension with his disciples in Matthew 9:35–38 (ESV), “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Jesus gives us the solution to the problem of an abundant harvest without adequate workers – pray earnestly! In fact, 19 chapters before Jesus says, “Go Therefore and make disciples of all nations…” he says, “Pray Therefore!” As Dick Eastman, the president of Every Home For Christ, and one of the most respected prayer mobilizers in the world says, “the degree to which prayer is mobilized is the degree to which the world will be evangelized”

In this command, Jesus doesn’t use the common Greek word for prayer. He uses the word deomai, which means to ‘plead desperately.’ And he doesn’t simply tell the disciples to pray for laborers to be sent out to the harvest fields. He uses the word ekballo, which means to ‘drive out, or hurl forth.’ This is the same word he uses when he casts out demons in both Matthew 9:38 and Luke 10:2. So if we review Matthew 9:35-38 once more, we see Jesus commanding us to plead desperately to the Lord of the harvest to forcefully thrust out laborers into his harvest!

Desperate Prayer Moves Nations

Indonesia

Followers of Jesus in Indonesia experienced great persecution in the 1990’s. Then the 2004 tsunami unleased tragic devastation – more than 225,000 people died in Indonesia, Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, and Maldives. In response, the Indonesian Church came together in unifed desperate prayer.

On May 17, 2012, 120,000 people – including 9500 prayer and mission’s leaders from 86 nations, 20,000 children ages 4-14, and 20,000 young adults ages 18-30 – gathered in Indonesia’s capital city, Jakarta, for the World Prayer Assembly (www.worldprayerassembly.org). The crowd filled the city’s soccer stadium. An additional 385 other stadiums filled with even more Indonesian Christians who joined in praying. They urgently asked God to send a fresh wave of the knowledge of the glory of the Lord to cover the earth as the waters cover the seas (Hab. 2:14).

By 2022, Indonesia had nearly 600 city-wide prayer networks united across denominations and generations. In the first quarter of 2022, they celebrated 10 years since the first World Day of Prayer by coming together in a virtual assembly. Thousands gathered at watch parties across Indonesia, and they were joined by participants from 101 other nations. Under this canopy of connected, strategic, and sustainable prayer, the Church in the world’s largest Muslim nation has grown extraordinarily fast.

West Africa

Since 2019 Last Quarter Evangelism (LQE) has mobilized millions of children and youth in West Africa between four and 14 years old to pray and share their faith. The student-designed, student-led outreach program runs from Oct. 1 – Dec 31 each year. It is done in partnership with All Africa Baptist Fellowship (AABF), All Africa Baptist Youth Fellowship (AABYF) and The Prayer Covenant. During the first two years of this large initiative, more than one million people across more than 30 nations came to Jesus as a result of the witness and testimony of these young people.

Middle East

During Ramadan in 2022, we saw more than 10 thousand people commit to pray 15 minutes each day for 24 unreached Muslims cities throughout the Middle East. Their combined commitment totaled more than 43,000 hours of prayer using specific Bible-based prayer points. We culminated our prayers on the last day of Ramadan. Muslims call this the Night of Power – a night which commemorates when they believe God revealed the Quran to Mohammed through the angel Gabriel.

We called our night of prayer, One Miracle Night. During that night Reaching Unreached Nations Ministries ( www.runministries.org ), the Jesus Film global leadership team and partners, International Prayer Connect ( www.ipcprayer.org/ipc-home ), and the hosts, Global Family Prayer Room joined together as a global family in 24/7 prayer both online and on the ground. Our combined prayer totalled more than 50 million hours! We prayed for Christ to be exalted and gospel movements to emerge throughout the Middle East.

And God acted. One family of Jesus followers reported a significant breakthrough as a result. They owned a completed bible translation in the heart language of an unreached people who lived hidden in the mountains of their Middle Eastern country. These believers wanted to share it with that community, but they couldn’t find them.

They noticed that the translated Bible was missing every morning but reappeared when they came home from the work each day. After seeing this pattern several times, they decided to stay up one night to see what was happening.

During the night a dog came, picked up the Bible, and took off running. They decided to follow the dog. It led to the very people they were searching for! They shared Jesus with them, and the village came to Christ!

If God can use a dog to accomplish his work, he can use any of us! As Hudson Taylor said, “When we work, we work; but when we pray, God works.”

Collaborative Intercession Ushers in a Harvest

Go Movement

The Go Movement ( https://www.gomovement.world/ ) is one example of a collaborative prayer and evangelism effort emerging over the last several years. Its focus is calling every believer to be a witness, with a vision to raise up 100 million intercessors for a one-billion-soul harvest! This last year, thousands of churches were mobilized in prayer and evangelism. The Go Movement reports that millions came faith in Africa this last May, as a direct result of their prayer and evangelism efforts.

If we can verify these numbers are true, they would be comparable to any of the great revivals throughout church history. And this would indicate a God-breathed, Christ- awakening beginning to emerge across the world!

International Prayer Connect

International Prayer Connect, www.ipcprayer.org partnering with ministries like Reaching Unreached Nations (RUN), Finishing the Task (FTT), and the Go Movement brings believers together in prayer. Inspired by the story of the Moravians, they recently launched a new prayer initiative called Pray 110 ( www.110cities.com ). The focus on these cities came out of research from global house church movements that identified these 110 cities that are ripe for the harvest. Additionally, nearly all remaining unreached people groups on the earth live in or nearby these 110 cities!

These house church leaders also shared that they have teams ready to launch church planting and disciple-making movements in these cities between 2022-2025, and their sense is these movements will rapidly multiply. This is yet another example of prayer and gospel movements coming together.

International Prayer Connect’s (IPC) prayer strategy is to:

Prayer-walk each of these cities in the next 3yrs, praying onsite with insight

Raise up 110 million people to pray daily for the peoples living in these 110 unreached mega cities

Establish on-going 24/7 prayer in each of these cities , building a canopy of night and day prayer one prayer meeting at a time.

Working together with on-the-ground teams, IPC developed 5 prayer points for each city which include the unreached languages of the people groups in each city, Bibles that need to be translated, humanitarian needs of justice, and areas of remaining demonic strongholds. IPC will track the measurable results – number of disciples made, Bibles being translated, and house churches planted in the next 3 years. Anyone can join in praying for these cities by signing up at www.110cities.com .

Global Voice of Prayer

In 2021, Global Voice of Prayer ( www.globalvoiceofprayer.com ) partnered together with several other global prayer movements around the world to produce a powerful and inspiring one hour documentary called Come to the Table ( https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Codez81DwO8&t=256s ) documenting the prayer and mission’s movements over the last few decades!

One of the great stories documented is the impact of the Global Day of Prayer, whose founder and leader Graham Power recently went home to be with the Lord. In 2001 Graham initiated a stadium gathering in Cape Town, South Africa that saw 45,000 Christians pray for the needs in their nation. By 2010 this movement grew to become the largest prayer gathering in recorded history, where about 350 million from 220 nations participated in the Global Day of Prayer on Pentecost Sunday.

Prayer is the Key to Revival

Ultimately to have God's blessings, God's work must be done God's way. And Jesus, himself, is the work, the way, and the blessings we need. He must have the supremacy, predominance, pre-eminence, central focus, exaltation, visibility, and raison d'etre! As David Bryant writes, “both individually and corporately, we must be committed to pursuing together more of who God's son is to us, for us, over us, before us, within us, through us and upon us!”

We have a phrase in our house of prayer, “Little keys open Big doors.” Let’s take this little key called prayer, put it in God’s hand and believe God to open up a big door called revival and awaking in the nations of the earth!

We praise God for the promise that the “effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16).

God releases his power in response to the prayers of his people. God will either give us what we ask for, or give us what we would have asked for if we knew everything He knew. I believe he is so much better than we think he is and doing more than we think he is doing in response to our prayers! May God do immeasurable more than all we ever ask or even imagine all for His Glory for our joy and for the salvation of the multitudes in the nations!

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