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2. **Prüfungsausschuss**
Prüfungsausschuss



Most people are so familiar with this Scripture they don't

When out of control is good

“Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, ‘He told me everything I ever did!’ When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, long enough for many more to hear his message and believe,”

In American churches, we often talk about our desire to reach a lot of people. We count important things like baptisms, people in Sunday worship, etc. But let's go back to the Great Commission. Jesus didn't say to make disciples of a lot of people, but a lot of peoples. Over the centuries, the church has reached many people. Praise God. But we have neglected those who have never heard the gospel, roughly one-third of the world. If we reach a lot of people groups, then, we will reach a lot of people!

The greatest injustice in the world

"How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14, NASB95).

In the September 11, 2001, attacks on the U.S., terrorists killed 2977 people. Today, roughly 70,000 people will die without ever once hearing a credible presentation of the gospel. That's almost 24 times as many people as were killed on 9/11. To have so many people born, live their whole lives and die without Jesus is the greatest injustice in the world today. While Western believers are debating when and how Jesus will come again, more than 2 billion people are living in spiritual darkness never having heard of his first coming. Would you pray and ask God what he wants you to do to right this eternally important injustice?

Today, roughly 70,000 people will die without ever once hearing a credible presentation of the gospel.

Simultaneous, not sequential

"... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth," (Acts 1:8, NASB95).

Most missions-minded believers are aware of Jesus' final words to his disciples in Acts 1:8. Today, more and more churches are discovering that a key word in the Acts 1:8 text is **"and."** Rather than pouring all their energy and resources into their church in the hopes of one day reaching beyond, they are learning the Great Commission command is a **simultaneous**—not **sequential**—mandate to reach here, near and far. So many healthy Converge churches are working with their district partners to reach their own communities (here), neighboring communities (near) through church planting (in similar and cross-cultural groups) and in distant places (far), with the help of Converge International Ministries. Churches with this three-pronged approach to their outreach are experiencing God's favor as they turn outward and away from the consumerism that has negatively impacted the church in North America.

The Great Commission command is a simultaneous—*a* —mandate to reach here, near and far.

Random or discerned — which describes my church's mission strategy?

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them," (Ephesians 2:10, NASB95).

Paul told the Ephesus church they were the workmanship of the master craftsman, the Lord Jesus. Then he shared with them a most remarkable thing: God, the King of the universe, had prepared in advance important things for them to do. What was true for them is true for your church, too. We have already seen that disciple-making churches are called to reach the world's peoples. Every church has its work to do among the nations, and this passage teaches us God has prepared our work in advance. It stands to reason, then, that it is incumbent on every local church to discern what that work is and, as the text says, "walk" in it.

In a passage we refer to often, we see the Antioch church do this very thing. While praying and fasting, they **discerned** their call to send two of their best leaders to the Gentiles.

"While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them,'" (Acts 13:2, NASB95).

Our Converge team has a fruitful tool called 2:10 FOCUS that can help your church enter a meaningful discernment process. Using this tool will result in effective engagement in the work our King has called your church to do. Over the past few years, we have seen this process bring fresh spiritual vitality to churches (and their leaders) as they hear from Jesus that he has called them to important work he prepared.



Learn how your church can discern how God has called it to reach the nations through the free 2:10 FOCUS process.

The global worker's new (old) role

"The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also," (2 Timothy 2:2, NASB95).

What are global workers? You may know them as missionaries. They are ordinary people called to do extraordinary things as they cross cultural divides for the gospel's sake. The Apostle Paul is the ultimate missionary example. He led others to faith, disciplined them and commissioned them to multiply. In his familiar charge to young Timothy, we see four generations of multiplication (Paul, Timothy, the faithful, the others). Multiplication is God's demonstrated strategy to reach the world with the gospel, and it is something ordinary people can do. Knowing the

knowing their sister churches also were there. So, we now link our churches not only to our global workers on the field, but also to each other in a **consortium**. Led by a high-capacity leader in the U.S., these networks of churches work with one another and support our global staff and national partners in many ways. Each consortium has its own prayer network that brings believers together to engage in the spiritual warfare our global workers face.

life-time of service. Soon, this rapidly evolving process will even enable every global worker to obtain an appropriate degree in keeping with their life-stage. Once appointed and throughout their time with Converge, our global workers receive compassionate member care from a dedicated team of experienced leaders.



Learn about how your church can send a missionary intern or global worker to a Missionary Discovery & Assessment event.

Get motivated

If you work your way backward through the book of Revelation (with some other Scripture to inform you), you can discover four powerful motivations to live your life focused on the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

1. Reward (Rev. 22:12)

“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done,” (Revelation 22:12, NIV).

When Jesus comes for you, he will reward your obedience in discipling the peoples of the world, whether by going or sending, praying and giving.

2. Speed the day (Rev. 21:4)

“What kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming,” (2 Peter 3:11–12, NIV).

In a passage we looked at earlier (Mt. 24:14), Jesus said

the end would come when the gospel of the kingdom is proclaimed to all people groups. John, in Revelation 21:4, said that when Jesus comes, “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away” (NIV). And so, when Peter says to look forward to that day and speed its coming, we are speeding the day when sin and death are no more.

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- n **Barnabas**, who in Acts 9 brought Paul to the apostles and testified of how he had preached. This introduction, facilitated by Barnabas, led to the church sending one of the most influential and impactful missionaries recorded in the Bible.

In a nutshell, mobilization is about helping the church understand its role in God's mission to the nations and encouraging its members to participate in God's work actively. It is calling out that which God has already prepared for them.

It is helping them find the courage to say yes to God and follow hard after him to the ends of the earth. A mobilizer embraces the adventure of the Spirit-led life and brings others along for the ride.

Mobilization 1, 2, 3...

Step 1: Develop a heart for the nations

Show others from God's word the biblical basis for missions. From Genesis to Revelation, God has been a missional God, working his plan to reconcile people to himself. What most people know about the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 is actually a theme throughout the entire Scriptures.

Step 2: Develop an understanding of our world

Of the people in our world, 97% know the name Coca-Cola and have access to it. But one-third of the world's 7.83 billion

people still do not know and follow Jesus. Opening the eyes of those in your sphere of influence will flip a switch in their hearts. It should make them want to do something about the masses every day who are dying a Christless death. William Carey once said, "To know the will of God, we need an open Bible and an open map."

Step 3: Develop people to become World Christians

"World Christians are followers of Jesus Christ who from Scripture understand God's heart for the world and his invitation for each believer to participate in his global purpose," (*Go Mobilize*, p. 4). Help them discover their giftings and how they can be used to advance God's global purpose. Direct them to be a global worker if they are physically able to do so. Research different short-term and long-term missions opportunities and share them with the people in your sphere of influence.

Step 4: Develop a process of discernment

Through prayer, discern who God might be calling to be a missionary. Once God has shown you a Christian who has the gifting and calling to spread the gospel in a cross-cultural setting, be bold enough to walk up to them and tell them what you see. They will thank you later.

Sending your very best

Most of us face a dilemma within ourselves. We want to be generous but, at the same time, we want to keep the best things for ourselves. This is particularly true in the local church when there are gifted people who serve well. You know, the rock stars! We all want the rock stars to be leaders in our church. This approach does not change when it comes to missions. Do I send my very best member

halfway around the world to serve for 10 or more years?
Who will fill their place in my church? Do I trust the Holy

Here are a couple of books:

Missions and You!: Exploring What God Is Doing in Today's World, by Larry Green

Gaining By Losing: Why the Gospel Belongs to Churches That Send, by J.D. Greaser

Our Converge International Ministries team wants to help your church and church members gain the knowledge and tools to raise up and send missionaries into the harvest fields God has prepared for your church to reach.

Internships

Want to challenge young people's faith and growth in Christ? Propose that they spend a summer with a Converge International Ministries [CIM] Internship Missions Service Intern. The internship is designed to help shape young people's worldview to be consistent with their responses to the injustice they see around them.

The internship allows and encourages them to personally encounter the challenge and adventure of missions ministry. IMIPACT is more than a resumé filler. It provides a summer of growth, mentoring and a three-day retreat upon return from the field. It's a summer!



Converge is a movement of churches working to help people meet, know and follow Jesus. We do this by starting and strengthening churches together worldwide.

For over 170 years we've helped churches like yours bring life change to communities in the U.S. and around the world through church planting and discipleship multiplication, leadership training and coaching, and global missions.

We can help your church develop effective missions strategies and opportunities to reach people with the gospel in key areas of the world. By tapping into our cross-cultural expertise in assessing and training missionaries, you can focus on sending the right people to the right places, increasing the effectiveness of your missions ministry so you can make greater kingdom impact worldwide. And the people in your church will develop a heart for missions and grow in their relationship with Jesus by learning to support and serve in missions.

Converge also connects the *right missionaries to the right opportunity* and equips them with the *right tools* they can take to the field. We provide support-raising strategies, training, prayer and encouragement to effectively share the gospel. Missionaries and their families receive personalized care from our team, including health insurance and a retirement savings plan to keep them healthy on and off the field.

As partners on the same mission, we're more effective working together to reach more people with the gospel.

Connect with us at usengagement@converge.org or 800.323.4215 to learn more.

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