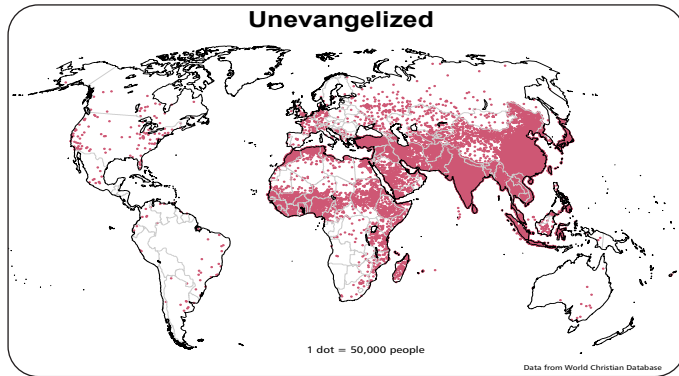


PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

WEEK 52, DECEMBER 27 – JANUARY 2

The Great Commission



Christ's last command to his followers appears at the end of each gospel and the beginning of Acts. It is often called 'The Great Commission.' Putting all five accounts together gives us the goal of the Church:


- Going to the nations
- Under the authority of Jesus
- Being filled with the Holy Spirit
- Being a witness to Jesus everywhere
- Preaching the gospel to everyone
- Discipling the nations (including baptism and teaching obedience to Jesus)
- Doing all this in a spirit of suffering and servanthood
- Until the completion or fulfilment of the current era.


The Great Commission is a task of staggering scope, but also a story of amazing achievement. Unsupported by governments, but in the power of Christ, and with the vision faithfully passed down through 50 generations, Christians have started churches in thousands of cultural groups, translated the Bible

several thousand times (and usually been the first to write a language down), healed the sick, helped the weak, and fought for justice and truth.

Better still, hundreds of millions of ordinary Christians have sought to live out Christ-like lives and work for the common good, living out a witness to Christ across the world.

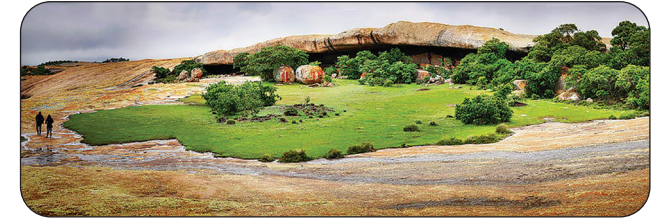
The Church has also earned much criticism and been responsible for great evil as it has progressed into the nations. We Christians need to reflect on that and repent. That said, it is remarkable to think how much worse the world would be today if Jesus Christ and his followers had never been a part of history.

 The Great Commission is an unfinished challenge. Pray that every church will make it central to their mission.

 Let us pray that in the coming year, we will be faithful to Christ, and responsive to the Spirit's leading, by finding ways to be more involved in the Great Commission.

THE NATIONS

ZIMBABWE





The 17 million people of this southern African nation have been kept poor, first by colonialism, then by Zimbabwean leaders who led the country into corruption and misrule.

It is a land rich in resources and fruitfulness, but wracked with poverty. Zimbabweans are denied the basics that good government should provide. They also suffer avoidable trials, like AIDS and infant malnutrition. Yet Zimbabwe's resourceful people have found ways to survive and even thrive.

In the struggle, the Church has grown and been a source of strength to many and provided help to the vulnerable and impoverished.



 Pray this nation will enjoy a new day and will thrive.

 Pray for unity among the many denominations. Pray for God's Kingdom to flourish in Zimbabwe and to make this nation a light to Africa and the world!

The Lausanne Movement and Operation World

The Lausanne Movement seeks to connect influencers and ideas for global mission, in order to form God-inspired, catalytic connections within and across regions, generations, shared interests, and ideas.

The Operation World ministry researches God's world and distributes its findings for information, inspiration and prayer. See operationworld.org for details of books, apps for your phone, daily emails and other resources, many of them free.

The *Praying for the World* prayer guides are just one example of how these ministries aim to stir the Church to informed action, and how two different groups can work together for Kingdom purposes. Both are small teams facing significant challenges. Pray for us! Come work with us!

Praying for the World is a free weekly prayer guide to inspire and inform the whole church to pray for the whole world. Visit www.lausanne.org/pray to start any week. Created through the partnership of Operation World and the Lausanne Movement.

 Lausanne Movement

 OPERATION WORLD