



How Will They Hear?

~Theresa Poon

Perhaps the term “Unreached People Group, UPG” does not seem familiar to you so let’s consider this: some of the top 100 UPG’s have immigrated to North America and could be living in your neighbor. Burmese, Iraqi Arabs, Japanese, Khmers (from Cambodia), Persians (from Iran), and Thais make up just some of these groups.

According to the Joshua Project, a “people group” is defined as “For evangelization purposes, a people group is the largest group who share language, religions, ethnicity, class or caste, etc. within which the Gospel can spread as a church planting movement without encountering barriers of understanding or acceptance.”

There are around 17,000 people groups in the world, around 7,400 of which (42%) are classified as “UPG”, a “people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group without outside assistance.” This comes to more than 3 billion souls who have yet to hear the name “Jesus”, let alone to accept Him as their personal savior.

Consider these data released by the Traveling Team (figures from 2015):

- Amount given to Christian missions: \$45 billion (only constituted 6.4% of all funds given to Christian causes; and by the way, *same amount Americans spend a year on diet programs*)
- Of that, only \$450 million (**only 1%**) was given to the work of reaching the UPG’s. It is only .001% of the \$42 trillion income of Christians.
- There are more than 13,000 missionaries serving to the UPG’s, but it constitutes **only 3.3%** of all missionaries in the field.
- The ratio of UPG workers in the unreached world is: 1 missionary for every 216,300 people.

If there is such a great need, why are there not more missionaries going and being sent to reach the UPG’s? Why are churches sending out almost all their resources, in people and money, to the 58% of people groups that are already reached? The more investments we, as the global Church, put into reaching the unreached, the faster the gospel will reach to the ends of the earth.... and then Christ will return. Matthews 28:19-20 reminded us, “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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Let us examine the way we conduct missions to fulfill the Great Commission by spreading the good news to all corners of the world. It’s true most of the names of the UPG’s are hard to pronounce, let alone to remember to pray for them on any regular basis. Where they are in the world are some of the most remote, unfamiliar, and perhaps hostile places you can imagine. But they are also children of the same God we believe. They’re also loved by our Heavenly Father. Let us prioritize the needs and efforts to the UPG’s. Let us pray to be a more missional-minded church, especially to those who have yet to even hear of the name of Jesus. As it was written in vv. 14-15 of Romans 10, “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?”

Christians in North America are among the most well-off believers in the world. To be clear, a good amount of money is being spent on Christian causes but consider this: Americans actually spent more money buying Halloween costumes for their pets each year than the amount given to reach the UPG’s! Are we okay with that?

Let us be part of the team that sends beautiful feet to the UPG’s who are open to the good news and have yet to hear or know it. Be a sender, be a goer, be a giver, be a prayer warrior, be a mobilizer. Be a partner to God in reaching out to the UPG’s so they can at least hear and then believe in the Good News. May all the glory and honor be to Him, amen!

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PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Please lift up the youth ministry that Rev. Douglas is combining the Tuesday and Wednesday nights gathering in Johannesburg in which Helen, Clarence, and three young members are participating. They began to study the book of Genesis, and hope that it will continue and become steady.
2. Please pray for Rev. and Mrs. Wu as they plan to use Monday and Tuesday to visit Jo-burg and Rustenburg every other week, asking God to keep them physically, mentally, and spiritually healthy, as well as safety commuting in and out.
3. Thank God for allowing 200,000 medical workers in South Africa to have received the Johnson & Johnson COVID 19 vaccine already. The daily number of confirmed infections has dropped to below 1,000, and the daily death toll has dropped to about 100. Please continue to pray for the country.
4. Please pray for Alex and Nicole have wisdom and grace in preparing teaching materials and allocating time well for preaching, Bible study and fellowship. Pray also for their safety as they serve outside every day and ask the Lord to care for them.
5. Pray for the Ghana village school building and renovation projects in Yeji and Mbowura. Pray that these projects will be completed soon.
6. Pray for the ministry workers who are currently working amongst the Romas in the settlements in the settlements in the Uzhorod area of western Ukraine. CIM is now supporting 6 Roma pastors in partnership with House of Mercy. Many of the Roma communities and workers have been hit hard with the COVID 19 pandemic. In some villages, close to 80% are ill. Many have not been tested or vaccinated.
7. Grateful that God kept the Brazil STM team safe and smooth for this trip.
8. Hoping to forming a Chinese Bible Study Group in Belem.
9. Thank God for giving Rev Loo wisdom to share the gospel with Mr. Ou.
10. Thank the Lord that sister Ye Dan leads the Bible study every Wednesday night. This particular night, three sisters befriended by the team members from the North STM team also participated in the Bible study Pray that God will move more brothers and sisters to participate in training.
11. Pray for the recruiting effort underway to fill job vacancies in CIM for a Director of Ministry to oversee STM and daily operations, and an Executive Director successor.
12. Pray that God will move more brothers and sisters to join the ministry so God's kingdom would be more prosperous. Pray for God's abundant provision for all the financial needs of CIM.

NOTE

Beginning March 1, please call 408-596-4567 to contact CIM for questions or comments. Thank you for your continual support.

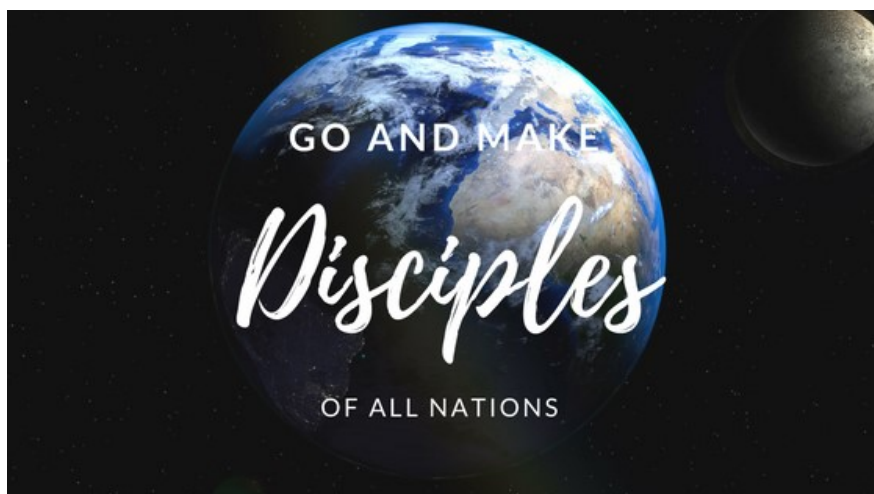
FINANCIAL REPORT

March 2021

As of Mar-			
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General	\$34,957	\$1,602	\$33,355
Missions	\$14,606	\$8,322	\$6,284
Total	<u>\$49,563</u>	<u>\$9,924</u>	<u>\$39,639</u>

To contribute to CIM ministries:

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- 2) Donate online via credit card, go to: www.cimusa.org
Click on "Give" and follow directions. Thank you!



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