



New Calls & Faithful Friends

Rather than "sending" laborers to the mission fields of the world, Grace Community International operates under the principle of the Macedonian Call. This concept is taken from Acts 16:9-10 which describes how *"a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them."* While GCI's calls come not from visions but rather emails, the principle of responding to direct appeals to us for help remains. These calls come from pastors, elders, and laymen from churches desiring training in the areas of leadership, marriage, child-raising, personal evangelism, and follow-up discipleship.

Every year we receive these entreaties, and the GCI Board of Directors convenes to carefully pray over each request before making the difficult decision of saying "yes" to some invitations and "no" or "not yet" to others. This winter the Board of Directors met and accepted calls to six countries over the next two years - four countries for return visits to faithful ministry partners and two countries new to GCI's outreach efforts. Following is a summary of these mission plans along with how you can pray for GCI in the coming months as we embrace each of these calls for help.



Expended for the souls of men

When GCI travels to the mission field, we tell our hosts that we work on the "sucked orange" principle. We come full and expect to return empty - like a slice of orange sucked dry of its juice. In this matter, we heartily agree with the Apostle Paul who wrote that he would "most gladly spend and be expended for your souls" (2 Corinthians 12:15). If the Lord tarries and as your faithful generosity supplies, we anticipate expending ourselves for the souls of men and women in Nigeria, Cameroon, South Africa, Cuba, Russia, and Togo over the next two years.

Nigeria - This summer we once again join our brother in Christ Emeka in tilling the hearts of men and women in Nigeria. For 26 years GCI has ministered in this country; what a joy to now be sharing Biblical foundations of marriage and parenting to second and third generations! In addition to ministering to local churches, university campuses, and para-church leadership, we will be speaking at a Pastors Conference with already more than 100 Nigerian pastors pre-registered.

Cameroon - Following swiftly on the heels of our Nigeria trip is our return to Cameroon where we first engaged in ministry over 25 years ago. During the summer of 2019, we will minister to Baptist and Reformed Presbyterian church leaders and congregants, Campus Crusade for Christ staff personnel, and members of the Christian Teaching Physicians Union.

South Africa - While having ministered in South Africa previously, in the fall of 2019 we will labor in a city new to GCI - Cape Town. A Christian businessman from this city attended our previous family seminars and discipleship events in Pretoria and Johannesburg and shared how these events along with working his way through our Lord, Teach Us to Pray workbook changed him alongside his marriage and family. Hence, we will be ministering to his church in Cape Town while also exploring the possibility of engaging with a local Bible College and seminary.

Cuba - Long has the heart of former GCI Board of Directors member Dan Clark desired that GCI would expand its ministry to the Spanish-speaking world. Now God has worked through him to prepare the way for ministry activities in Cuba during the late fall of 2019. Included in these plans is a Pastors' Conference with

over 60 individuals pre-registered!

Russia - In winter of 2020 we will return to Russia before our multi-entrance visa to this country expires. For more than 20 years we have partnered with the Reformed Seminary of St. Petersburg, and now we have the privilege of ministering not only to this great training center of pastors but also to the men and women commissioned from its doors to minister to their countrymen across Russia.

Togo - Tentatively, plans are underway to travel to Togo in summer of 2020. Ministering in this new country would bring the total number of countries reached by GCI to 29.

Join us in praying this week!



For political stability in the countries to which we plan to travel.

"First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity." (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

For God to continue to guide trip plans and bless the efforts of our country hosts.

"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain."
(Psalm 127:1)



For hearts to be prepared to receive the Gospel and submit to the Word of God.

"But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance." (Luke 8:15)



For financial provision for travel expenses along with Bibles and supplies for national pastors.

"For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God." (1 Corinthians 9:12)

Overflowing thanks

During these exciting times, we praise God for your co-laboring with us through your faithful prayers and gifts. Without you, this ministry of GCI would not be possible. In the coming two years, we will shore up the ministries that we devoted

ourselves to for the past quarter of a century. We will respond to calls from new countries. We will minister to pastors, lay leaders, student workers, married couples, and families. We will deliver quality Bibles, Bible study aids, and Bible reference works to churches and ministries. By God's grace, we will lift up Jesus and proclaim salvation through Him alone, work to ground local churches in sound doctrine and discipleship, and establish marriages and families in obedience to God's Word!

If you would like to partner financially with GCI, simply click on the Donate button [here](#) to give online today! Alternatively, you can mail a check to the address at the bottom of this message. As always, keep up-to-date with the latest ministry happenings by following us on [Facebook](#) (@gciweb).

I close this message with a deep and abiding thankfulness for your sacrificial and effectual prayers which empower and drive this ministry ever forward in the cause of Christ.

By His mercy,

Rev. John S. Mahon

2 Corinthians 4:1

A Closing Hymn

Please allow me to close with the words of the hymn "So Send I You" which challenges me as I consider the next two year's of GCI's ministry around the globe. (Click [here](#) to hear the music for the hymn.)

So send I you to labor unrewarded,
to serve unpaid, unloved, unsought unknown,
to bear rebuke, to suffer scorn and scoffing,
so send I you, to toil for me alone.

So send I you to bind the bruised and broken,
o'er wandering souls to work, to week, to wake,
to bear the burdens of a world a weary
so send I you to suffer for My sake.

So send I you to loneliness and longing,
with heart a hungering for the loved and known,
forsaking home and kindred, friend and dear one
so send I you to know My love alone.

So send I you to leave your life's ambition,
to die to dear desire, self will resign,
to labor long, and love where men revile you
so send I you to lose your life in Mine.

So Send I you to hearts made hard by hatred,
to eyes made blind because they will not see,
to spend, tho' it be blood, to spend and spare not
so send I you to taste of Calvary.