

YES, IT IS POSSIBLE

A Road Map for Finishing
the Great Commission in
This Generation

THE GLOBAL JOHN
KNOXERS FORUM

YES, IT IS POSSIBLE

A Road Map for Finishing the
Great Commission in This Generation



The Global John Knoxers Forum

YES, IT IS POSSIBLE

A Road Map for Finishing the Great Commission in
This Generation

Copyright © 2024 Moving Missions

Lake Forest, CA

info@movingmissions.org

<https://movingmissions.org>

Compiled by the Global John Knoxers Forum

Johnknoxer@protonmail.com

This book is published under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share-Alike License. It grants anyone the freedom to use and build upon the content without restriction, subject to the two conditions of the license: crediting the original content to the original owner and distributing what is created from the original content under the same Share-Alike license.

For private circulation only. Do not post the contents of this book on any social media platform.

Scripture Verses from:

2020 version: "Holy Bible, New American Standard (2020)" & "NASB2020" & "New American Standard Bible (2020)"

The Bible. Today's New International Version. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.

Table of Contents

Preface.....	<i>i</i>
Introduction.....	<i>1</i>
1. Understanding the Great Commission.....	<i>5</i>
2. Why the Great Commission is Not Completed Yet.....	<i>7</i>
3. How We Will Know When the Great Commission is Completed.....	<i>10</i>
4. A Clear and Well-Defined Vision for Completion.....	<i>14</i>
5. What It Will Take.....	<i>22</i>
6. Reaching Every Language Group.....	<i>31</i>
7. A Global South Model.....	<i>34</i>
Conclusion.....	<i>37</i>

Preface

Nearly 500 years ago John Knox prayed, “Give me Scotland, or I die!” He had a great zeal to see all of Scotland reached by the Gospel. Fulfilling the Great Commission needs Great Commission champions or “John Knoxers” in every region of the world. These are people who will pray steadfastly, like John Knox did, and own the task of completing the Great Commission in their districts, regions, or counties. Such people need the strength, tools, and courage to develop a comprehensive strategy for finishing the Great Commission in this generation.

This book is a compilation of thoughts, ideas, and best practices for fulfilling the Great Commission task by passionate Great Commission champions/John Knoxers in different parts of the world, especially in the global south. The book seeks to address some important questions as we consider how to complete the Great Commission. Topics include:

1. Understanding the Great Commission
2. Can the Great Commission task be completed?
3. Why has the task not completed?
4. What will it take to finish task?
5. What will it look like when the task is completed?
6. What is the John Knoxers Movement?
7. What lessons can we learn from the Strategic Great Commission Initiatives by Great Commission champions in the Global South?

The information in this book should not be viewed as an exclusive formula to be implemented everywhere. Our hope is that some of

the principles and practices could be adapted and modified to fit the local context of diverse people, cultures, regions, and countries.

If this small handbook has been useful or you have any suggestions or comments, we would be glad to hear from you. Please contact us at johnknoxer@protonmail.com

For the Global John Knoxers Forum

Introduction

Nearly 2000 years ago, Jesus gave us the Great Commission when He said, “Go and make disciples of all nations.” It was a big task then and so much has been accomplished. Still, there remains much to be done to finish that task. Let’s begin by posing some questions:

- Can the Great Commission really be fulfilled? If yes, then when?
- Can it be finished in this generation?
- Why has it not been finished yet?
- What will it look like when it is completed?
- What will it take to complete it?
- Is producing a clear road map with defined goals possible?

While there are people who wonder if finishing the task is really possible, there are others who say, “It is possible. It can be done.” About 130 years ago, the famous preacher D.L Moody said this about the finishing the Great Commission:

“It can be done, it ought to be done, it must be done.”

Was it just a foolish man’s dream, an old man’s wild imagination, or was it a statement of faith? Many believed what he said and why he said it. He was a man of faith, someone who walked closely with God and believed God for a God-sized vision. It can be done because Jesus would not have given a commission that could not be done. It ought to be done because it is Jesus’ final command, so we must obey. It must be done because the only way for people to experience salvation is by someone sharing the gospel with them.

We find the same inspiration and passion D.L. Moody found from Jesus's words, "*My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work*" (John 4:34). Or drawing from the Apostle Paul's same passion, "*However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me, the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.*" (Acts 20:24)

Edinburgh 1910 and Tokyo 2010

Over 1,200 leaders from many countries attended the 1910 Edinburgh conference. The conference theme was The Evangelization of the World in This Generation. One hundred years later, in 2010, World Christian leaders gathered at Tokyo 2010, the 100th anniversary of the Edinburgh conference. The conference theme was Making Disciples of All Peoples in Our Generation. The Edinburgh 1910 and Tokyo 2010 was about finishing the Great Commission in our generation.

Do we still believe the task can be finished in *our* generation? There are sceptics, including Christian leaders, who don't think the Great Commission can be completed, and humanly speaking, they are right. Their concerns are many:

- The church has been working at it for nearly 2000 years. How can we complete it in our generation?
- Given the sheer size of today's global population, it seems impossible to reach all the people in the world with the gospel of Jesus.
- Persecution and opposition to the gospel is increasing, not decreasing.
- There isn't enough mission funding to accomplish the task any time soon.

- People joining mission agencies is on the decline at a time when we need far more workers.
- The risk factors are simply too high in many parts of the world.

While there is some truth to these concerns, many people of faith still insist that it is indeed possible. While human reasoning sees limitations, people of faith see possibilities. Doing what appears to be humanly impossible is a common Bible theme.

Verses That Address the God of All Possibilities	
Lk 1:37	For nothing will be impossible with God.
Mk 10:27	With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.
Rms 8:31	...If God is for us, who is against us
Lk 18:27	The things that are impossible with people are possible with God.
Job 42:2	I know that You (God) can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.
Verses that Address Faith for the Impossible	
Mt 17:20	If you have faith the size of a mustard seed... nothing will be impossible to you.
Mk 10:27	All things are possible to him who believes.
Mk. 11:24	All things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.
Phil. 4:13	I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

It is true that the task can't be completed simply through human effort, but we have the unfailing promises of God and abiding presence of the Lord with us as we put our trust in God to see Him do

the impossible. Join these “foolish” people who are willing to trust the Lord and launch strategic bold Great Commission initiatives. As Daniel 11:32 encourages us, “...*the people who know their God shall be strong and do great exploits (take action).*” Be a John Knoxer and chant day and night, “It can be done!”

Chapter 1

Understanding the Great Commission

Most people reading this book understand what the Great Commission is. However, before exploring how to accomplish the Great Commission task, this section provides a brief refresh of important themes to keep in mind as we think about strategies for completion. As noted earlier, the Great Commission is the most important mandate and final assignment Jesus gave to his disciples after His resurrection and before He returned to heaven. Although the term “Great Commission” is not mentioned in the Bible, first-century Christians and generations of Christians since then have understood Jesus’ command as that great and important job that He gave us to do. There are at least three kinds of Scripture verses that confirm this.

The Great Commission Verses

Mat 28:18-20	Luke 24:47
Mk 16:15-16	John 20:21
Mark 13:10	Acts 1:8

The Fulfillment Prediction Verses

Mat 24:14	Rev 7:9
Rev 5:9	Daniel 7:14

Reason for Completion Verses

2 Pet 3:9	John 4:34
1 Tim 2:4	Luke 4:18-19

The Scope of the Great Commission

Jesus was clear about who should be reached with the Good News. The Gospel of Mathew uses the Greek phrase *Pante Ta Ethne*, “all people groups.” (Mat 28:18-20). Revelation 7:9 expands our understanding of that by adding all places, tribes, people, and languages which today includes countries, states, districts, villages, towns, and even neighbourhoods.

The Goal of the Great Commission

The end goal of the Great Commission goes beyond simply telling people about the Good News. Mathew 28:19 makes it clear that God wants us to also make faithful disciples who obey his teachings. Author and teacher, Peter Wagner, reminds us that “*Church planting is the greatest strategy for spreading the gospel around the world*”¹ So it is best done in the context of local churches and by local churches planting more churches.

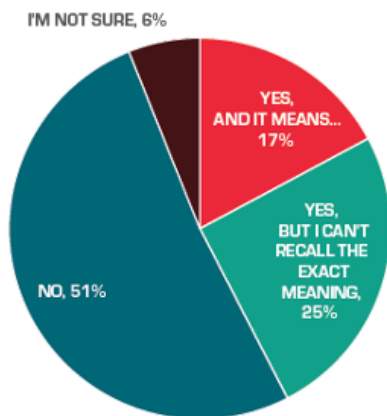
¹ Peter Wagner. 2010. *Church Planting for a Greater Harvest: A Comprehensive Guide*.

Chapter 2

Why the Great Commission is Not Completed Yet

Although there has been tremendous progress in spreading the gospel over the last nearly 2,000 years, there has also been more human migration and population growth, so much work remains to be done. There are at least two important things that are creating barriers to completion during our time.

CHURCHGOERS: HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE GREAT COMMISSION?



Translating the Great Commission Barna Research, 2018

Lack of Awareness

A 2018 study by the Barna Group revealed some alarming findings. When Christian Churchgoers were asked if they were aware of the Great Commission, 51% indicated they had never heard of it.

Another 25% indicated they were aware of it, but didn't recall what it meant. Only 17% of respondents knew what it was and what it meant.²

Many pastors and church leaders rarely speak about the Great Commission. If they do, it is viewed as optional. As a result, churchgoers and their leaders may have a weaker understanding of missions which impacts how they do missions.

This lack of understanding has resulted in missions that focus more on compassion and social justice, with no plan for actually completing the missions task. This is all the more reason why the concept needs to be regularly taught to all churchgoers to refocus attention on Jesus' ultimate command to all believers. So reestablishing knowledge of Mat. 28:18-20 is a good start. Tools and resources for teaching the concept abound.³

Lack of Coordinated Efforts to Finish the Great Commission

A lot of church and ministry work is carried out under the banner of "missions." While many of those things are good, sometimes "Good things become the enemy of the best things."⁴

There is a South African game where dogs are assembled for a competition over how fast they can run. A mouse is kept in a cage before the beginning of the game. People bring their dogs well before the appointed time, but if the mouse is still in the cage, all that the dogs do is bark and bite at each other. However, when

² <https://www.barna.com/research/half-churchgoers-not-heard-great-commission/>

³ <https://schoolofgreatcommissionglobal.learnnnn.com/the-school-of-great-commission> <https://www.sogc.church>

⁴ Tom Tenney. 2013. *The God Chasers: Pursuing the Lover of Your Soul*. Destiny Image Publishers.

the mouse is set free, all the dogs run after the mouse.

The church needs a mouse, a common vision focusing on finishing the Great Commission.

It is possible to finish the Great Commission in this generation if the church has a well-defined comprehensive strategy to mobilize the whole body of Christ. If we only focus on individual goals, activities, and programs, the task cannot be completed in our time. This doesn't mean giving up those individual programs and activities. It just means not working in silos that keep the church fragmented. Instead, let's work together to place greater emphasis on completing the Great Commission through each of our God-given fields.

Chapter 3

How We Will Know When the Great Commission is Completed

Great Commission leaders have attempted to provide some scripture-based criteria to know when the task is completed. Of course, only God knows when that is. Certainly, verses like Mat. 24:14 and Mk. 13:10 confirm that there is a finish line, and the sign for that is Jesus' return. Still, we need some sort of measurement criteria to know how we are progressing toward that time. Below are four organizations that seek to identify indicators that the Great Commission is being completed.

The Finishing The Task Movement⁵

The movement is made up of thousands of churches and ministry partners throughout the world who have the common goal of finishing the Great Commission. Indicators of completion are based on their 4B model. When this is accomplished, it is safe to say the job is done. The four Bs are:

1. **A Believer:** We want to equip every believer— all 2.6 billion of them—to personally share their faith. If every believer in Jesus Christ just shared the Good News with two people who had never heard it, the whole world would personally hear the gospel.
2. **A Bible:** We want every person on the face of the earth to have access to the Gospel translated into their heart

⁵ <https://finishingthetask.com>

language. We will also empower believers around the globe to engage with Scripture in new and expanded ways.

3. **A Body:** We want every existing church to sponsor and plant a daughter church where there is no church. We want everyone on earth to have access to a local church where they can fellowship.
4. **Break Through Prayer:** We want every person who doesn't know Jesus to be prayed for by someone. This means billions of believers will need to pray for billions of non-believers.

The PLUG and PREM Approaches

Several decades ago, a South Asian Network suggested the PLUG and PREM approach for completing the Great Commission, which was also embraced by the AD 2000 movement.

PLUG stands for:

People Groups

Language Groups

Urban Neighbourhoods

Geographical Villages

When the task is completed, every people, speaking every language, living in every urban neighborhood and rural village would have heard the gospel effectively, resulting in the formation of discipleship groups. To accomplish this, the network suggested a simple 4 step approach called PREM, which in many South Asian languages means love.

PREM stands for:

Pray

Research

Equip

Mobilize

Global Church Planting Network (GCPN)⁶

The Great Commission will be completed when there are communities of growing, obedient disciples of Jesus within easy access to everyone on earth. GCPN uses the acronym LEGS to describe this:

Linguistically

Ethnically

Geographically

Socially

The John Knoxers Movement

Inspired by John Knox's view of finishing the task in Scotland, this movement defines completion when four "everys" are finished:

1. Every person has had a chance to hear the gospel clearly in a language they can easily understand and respond to until there is no person left.
2. Every place has a gathering of believers (village / urban / neighbourhood) until there is no place left.
3. Every language has a Bible and bible-believing communities of faithful disciples until there is no language left.
4. Every people group is reached with in-depth engagement and discipleship groups worshipping the Lord until there is no people group left.

⁶ <https://gcpn.info>

With these kinds of completion indicators in mind, what kind of vision and mission statement would a church develop to describe their Great Commission description goal in their context?

Having defined the possible completion end goals, we encourage churches in each country, region, people, and language to think about what completion would look like in their context, so they can make their own Great Commission mission and vision statements.

We encourage all ministries that focus on one or more areas of the Great Commission to align their vision with a God-sized vision for fulfilling the Great Commission, and to work synergistically with other ministries to accomplish that.

Chapter 4

A Clear and Well-Defined Vision for Completion

Stephen R. Covey, author of *7 Habits of Highly Effective People* said “People are working harder than ever, but because they lack clarity and vision, they aren’t getting very far. They, in essence, are pushing a rope with all their might.”⁷ Habit 2 is, “Begin with the end in mind.”

A story is told about a shooter named Charlie Brown who always missed his target. One day, his fiancée Susan noticed he was feeling sad and asked him why. Charlie sighed and said, "I can never hit the target." Trying to cheer him up, Susan told him, "Don't worry, Charlie. Just take your rifle and shoot at the wall. Charlie followed her advice, shot at the wall, and Susan marked a circle around where the bullet hit. With a big smile, she said, "Congratulations, Charlie, you've hit the bullseye.

Isn’t that what many of us do with mission strategies? We draw the circle *after* we hit the target, and that becomes our goal. It would have been better for Charlie if Susan drew the circle first and then asked him to shoot within the circle. The Great Commission is the target. Let’s focus clearly on that well-defined target together. The target is bigger than any single organizational or personal goal that we may be targeting.

⁷ Steven R. Covey. 2020. FranklinCovey Publishers

Developing a God-Sized Vision

Remember singing that old Sunday School song, “*My God is so big, so strong, and so mighty. There is nothing He can’t do.*” Do we still believe that today? Are we ready to embrace a God-sized vision in our role as leaders?

Several years ago, former President of the Finishing the Task movement, Dr. Paul Eshleman, took some people on a fishing boat to discuss the idea of finishing the Great Commission. He told the following story.

Once, a fisherman went fishing with his friends in a boat. When he cast his net, he caught a lot of fish. He put the small fish in a basket but threw the big ones back into the sea. His friends were puzzled and asked, "Why are you doing that? Are you crazy? Why throw the big fish back?" He explained, "My frying pan is small, so I only keep the small fish."

If Jabez (1 Chron. 4:10) had to modify his prayer, translated in modern Great Commission language, what would he pray? “Lord, increase the size of my frying pan.”

A God-Sized Vision Defined

A God-sized vision is so big that only God can accomplish it. It must be much bigger than our own personal or ministry vision. If the goal is something we can achieve with our own strength and resources, then it’s not God-sized vision. A God-sized vision originates from the heart of God. To understand what a God-sized vision is, we need to listen to and know God’s heart. It must be a kingdom vision and understanding of what God desires. “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Tom, a young and adventurous athlete, tragically met his demise in an accident. In accordance with his will, all his organs were harvested and distributed to various recipients. Uncle John became the fortunate recipient of Tom's heart, and the surgery to transplant the organ was successful, giving John a new lease on life. A year after the heart transplant, John reached out to Tom's father and requested a meeting with him and his family to express gratitude for the gift of his son's heart. On the way to the meeting, Tom's father picked up a stethoscope, leaving the family curious about his intentions. Upon meeting Tom's father, John warmly embraced him and expressed profound thanks. Tom's father then made a poignant request, asking if he could place the stethoscope on John's chest to listen once more to the heartbeat of his son.

If we could learn to listen to God's heartbeat, our determination to complete the Great Commission would undoubtedly be strengthened. A God-Sized Vision will Attract God.

"For the eyes of the LORD roam throughout the earth, so that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His." (2 Chronicle 16:9).

Henry Varley's challenge to the evangelist D. L. Moody was, "The world is yet to see what God can do with and for and through and in a man who is fully and wholly consecrated to Him. "Moody prayed, "Oh Lord, I want to be that man whom you are looking for."⁸

A God-sized vision will attract God-sized provisions. We tend to make plans based on what we have and not based on what God has.

⁸ Paul Gericke. 1978. *Crucial Experiences in the Life of D.L. Moody*. Insight Press, Inc.

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)

What is your God-sized vision to finish the Great Commission in the years to come for your country, state, district, or country?

The Centrality of the Church in Finishing the Task

Nearly two thousand years ago, Jesus declared *“I will build my church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it”* (Mat. 16:18). The Apostle Paul said, *“His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms* (Eph. 3:10). In terms of finishing the task, the church is the biggest accelerator, so a completion strategy should focus primarily on mobilizing local churches.

Developing a Comprehensive Strategy

The vision statement describes what we want to accomplish. In this case we have defined a vision that is God-sized. A mission statement describes in brief terms how we plan to accomplish the vision. There are ministry leaders who have big goals they want to achieve, but when asked how they will achieve it, they have no answer. So having defined those two high-level thoughts, the next task is to develop a comprehensive strategy that is measurable and time bound.

Strategic Planning

People begin by asking if a national approach or a regional approach is best? Given the large task, we may believe a national strategy would be more comprehensive, feeding regional strategies that would finish the task in entire countries. Even so, the most practical approach would be a decentralized bottom-up model within smaller geographical regions applying a comprehensive action plan to achieve defined goals for those regions.

Urban planner Patrick Geddes once said, “Think globally and act locally.” In the same sense, we say think nationally and act regionally. As Bishop Desmond Tutu said, “There is only one way to eat an elephant: one bite at a time.” The metaphorical bite could be a district or a sub-district/county equivalent. A district approach may cover an approximate area of about 1-2 million people and a subdistrict/county 100,000 -200,000 people. There are about 39,000 districts in the whole world based on a rough estimate. The size of a district may vary from country to country, so a bottom-up approach means local leaders deciding what size of district they would choose to focus on.

Finding John Knoxers

In the introduction, we discussed the life and impact of John Knox and his famous prayer, “Give me Scotland or I die.”⁹ His dedication and passion for the Great Commission had a big impact on Scotland and the world. We believe people like John Knox (John Knoxers) exist everywhere today. A strategic plan would include seeking to identify such John Knoxers. Once identified, they need to be supported and equipped as Great Commission champions to lead the charge in every district or sub-district. Some may call them strategic coordinators, but their vision is bigger than that of their organization or churches.

As big picture thinkers, a John Knoxer’s role is to form strategies for reaching every person, in every place, every people group, and every language group in their districts by mobilizing the whole body of Christ. A nation cannot be reached by one mission, church, or ministry alone. We believe and have also seen that local level grass-

⁹ <https://thegenevanfoundation.com/give-me-scotland-or-i-die-the-life-and-ministry-of-john-knox/>

root unity is easier to accomplish than unity of leaders at the national level, so that is where we would look for John Knoxers too.

Breakthrough Prayer

When the Finishing the Task movement began promoting the 4th B, which is Breakthrough Prayer, many passionate Great Commission prayer warriors started exploring what breakthrough prayer would mean for them. Recalling the story of David and his victory over the Philistines,

“The LORD has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water.’ Therefore, he called the name of that place Baal Perazim.” (2 Sam. 5:20, 1 Chron. 14:11).

Ba'al-Perazim means “God of Breakthrough.” It was a place in ancient Israel where David won a victory over the Philistines. So an important part of a strategic plan is to figure out how to mobilize the whole body of Christ for breakthrough prayer. That means, mobilizing prayer for every person, every place, people, and language group. This calls for a unified strategy for prayer initiatives in your chosen area with churches and leaders working together for breakthrough prayer. The power of prayer can be multiplied and intensified if different prayer movements work together for the common goal.

Movements of Movements

Many of you know about Church Planting Movements (CPMs) and Disciple Making Movements (DMMs). These movements have proven to be strong accelerators for church planting and discipleship training.

Over the last twenty years, we’ve heard and read about some amazing results from such movements, including from David

Garrison's book *Church Planting Movements*.¹⁰ Since then, different expressions of CPM and DMM have emerged in different parts of the world. We rejoice in God for what He is already doing through these movements. While we call them "different expressions," they still generally follow the same methods. To finish the Great Commission in this life, it's time to promote multiple movements of movements. By that we mean, increasing the diversity of movement methods and practices.

Ministries have a tendency to insist on using their movement strategies everywhere, but that doesn't mean it is equally effective everywhere. People won't accept only one kind of food. They won't wear only one kind of clothes, because the food and clothes don't fit who they are and where they live. The food and clothes need to be appropriate for their context. Likewise, under a broad framework for finishing the Great Commission, the local church needs to decide on what kind of CPM and DMM would produce the strongest movements in their regions. And those movements could change as it produces new more appropriate movements in other areas. Then we can say there are movements of movements happening, and each one fits within each unique context.

Working Together to Achieve a Common Goal

Completing the task is possible if the whole body is united with one purpose and one accord to finish the Great Commission, like men of Issachar who were united in their commitment to see David made king.

"They came to Hebron fully determined to make David king over all Israel as the Lord of the Nation." (1 Chron. 12:38).

¹⁰ David Garrison. 2004. *Church Planting Movements: How God is Redeeming a Lost World*. WIGTake Resources LLC.

Ownership of the task by local churches and church networks working with unity in small geographical regions, such as districts and sub-districts can accomplish a lot. This doesn't mean the national level is irrelevant. National level leaders should maintain a close relationship with local leadership and assist them to accomplish their local vision. Because when all of the local visions are accomplished, then a whole nation is reached.

There is a story about a young African village girl who went missing one day, much to the distress of the entire community that cherished her. Despite the collective efforts of the villagers, who tirelessly searched the village and its surroundings throughout the day, they could not locate the girl as darkness fell, forcing them to halt their search. The following morning, the village chief convened the community and proposed a strategy. Recognizing the presence of tall grassy fields within the village, he surmised that the girl might have ventured into those bushes.

Acknowledging the potential danger of getting lost in the expansive and dense grass field, the chief suggested a united effort. He urged the villagers to join hands and walk together into the grassy expanse, hoping that this collective approach would yield success. Resolute, the villagers gathered, linked hands, and entered the grassy fields. Within a few minutes, they discovered the lifeless body of the missing child. The community was overwhelmed with sorrow, unable to contain their emotions. During the subsequent funeral, the grieving mother, in a tearful outcry, lamented, "If only we had held our hands yesterday, my child would not have died."

Chapter 5

What It Will Take

The Great Commission is about all and every and not just some. God cares about all people, not just some people (1 Tim. 2:4, 2 Pet. 3:9). So the goal should be to reach all and every and not some. Let's go a little deeper now and explore some practice steps to reach the all and every. All people, every place, and every language until there is no person left. What follows are some of those highly effective reproducible strategies.

No Person Left (Oikos Mapping and Frangelism)

A first important step for effective evangelism is preparing the people's heart for receiving God's Word. This means every nonbeliever needs to be prayed for by name. One simple way to do this is called *Oikos* prayer mapping. *Oikos* is Greek for "household." To accomplish this, every believer needs to determine who in their extended family still needs to hear the Gospel?

More people have received Christ because a personal witness of one or more people in their life than have become believers through other methods. So *oikos* should be promoted in every church. Every believer is encouraged to also write the name of their friends, relatives, associates, and neighbours (FRAN) who are not believers and pray for them. Prayer is preparing the hearts before sowing the seeds. You could use other entry strategies, but prayer is the most effective, simple, and reproducible strategy.

This can be accomplished by envisioning and equipping every believer in every church to pray and reach out to everyone on their FRAN list and begin praying for them, followed with evangelism. We call this FRAN-GELISM. The list is called your Fran List. Pray

as the Holy Spirit prompts you. Many follow the simple OPEN and BLESS prayer as shown in the FRAN card graphic.

FRAN prayer needs to be followed by intentional evangelism through any possible means as the Holy Spirit opens people's hearts. The most effective way to reach out to your FRAN is through personal evangelism.¹¹ In an article published in Christianity Today, the author claimed that, of the number of people surveyed, only 4% said they had been brought to Christ through an evangelistic rally. Anecdotally, it is said that Rev. W. Franklin Graham claimed that 86% of believers come to the Lord through Frangelism.

My commitment for prayer					Name: _____
#	FRIENDS	RELATIVES	ASSOCIATES	NEIGHBOURS	
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

#	FRIENDS	RELATIVES	ASSOCIATES	NEIGHBOURS	
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

FRAN PRAYER	BLESS PRAYER	OPEN PRAYER
FRIENDS	BODY	HEART
RELATIVES	LABOUR	EYES
ASSOCIATES	EMOTIONS	EARS
NEIGHBOURS	SOCIAL NEEDS	DOOR
	SPIRITUAL NEEDS	HEAVEN

5
PEOPLES
MINUTES
DAYS
WEEKS

A New Back to Jerusalem Movement

Many of you have heard about the Back to Jerusalem Movement. Is the goal of the Chinese church to evangelize unreached peoples from eastern provinces in China westward toward Jerusalem, particularly the Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu nations.¹² The Gospel spreads back to Jerusalem, where the Great Commission started by reaching your

¹¹ <https://harvest.org/resources/devotion/frangelism/#>

¹² <https://backtojerusalem.com/about/>

neighbour with the gospel, who then reaches their neighbor, and the gospel spreads westward until that region has received the gospel.

It is estimated that at least one-third of the population units (villages and urban neighbourhoods) in the world have a gathering of believers in their neighborhood. If every believer and church considered their neighborhood for their back to Jerusalem movement, one-third of the remaining evangelism task would be completed.

There is a village in South Asia where most of the population is from a Buddhist background. A Buddhist background believer turned church planter had 17 families in his church until 2020. During the COVID pandemic, the church and its members identified the remaining 67 families through their FRAN prayer movement and started praying for every one of them by name. This was followed by prayer walking and intentional evangelism and reached out to every family in the village as the Lord opened the doors. Today, there are one or more believers in all the 84 families in that village. They have reached their Jerusalem!

The Apostle Paul's passion: "My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else." (Romans 15:20 NLT). He then goes on to say there is "And now I have finished my work in these regions..." (Romans 15:23). Meaning, there are no more places left that haven't heard the gospel in that region.

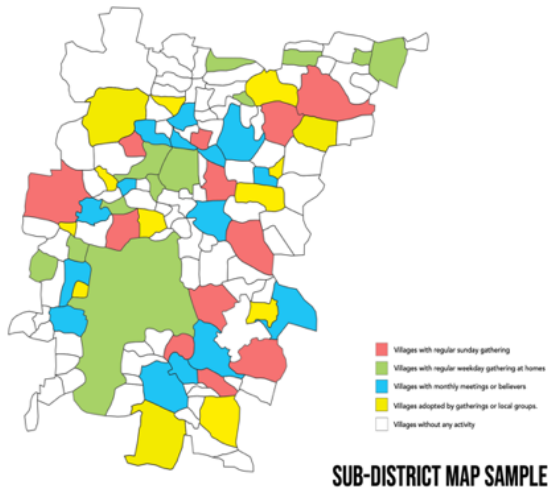
Identify Gaps

If the goal is for there to be no place left without a gathering of believers, then the first step is to know where there are churches and where there are none. This can be accomplished by using a mapping

process. It may be as simple as talking to the other churches in the region to find out what they know about the existence of churches. You could add the information to an Excel spreadsheet or use a printed color-coded map to show where churches are and are not. There is also the option of using mapping software, if that is accessible. Start with small geographical units, like village clusters or urban neighborhoods.

The first step is to identify places with and without churches.

- Select a district, a sub-district, or a block.
- Make a list of villages or neighbourhoods in the selected area.
- Look for maps of the sub-district or districts, if possible, with village boundaries.
- Gather the information on the presence of churches or gatherings.
- Collect information on church presence through word-of-mouth.
- Ask regular people (friends, neighbours) who would know about church locations to help fill in the gaps.
- Ask pastors and church leaders in selected locations to come together and share their information and pray for the area.
- Digital data gathering may be possible through technology-driven software, but that may require technical assistance, additional resources, and tools.
- Analyse the data and identify the places without a church gathering.



The sub-district map sample shows all Sunday gatherings and main churches marked in red. Weekly regular gatherings (house churches or equivalent) are marked in green, and a Christian presence with born again believers (e.g., prayer cells) is marked in blue. The white space is where there are no believers gatherings. Reaching those empty places means no one is left in that region. Once the empty villages are adopted for intentional prayer, evangelism, and church planting, they are marked as yellow.

Church mapping can be done more effectively and accurately if a crowd-sourcing method for data collection is used. Crowd sourcing means seeking help from a highly diverse group of people. Each would have unique knowledge about church presence and gaps, far more than just a few people trying to gather the information. The map is just an example. You could use different colors and codes that are more suitable.

Mobilize for Adoption

Once the mapping process shows where the gaps are, the next step is to mobilize the church, especially local church networks, to adopt every village in their geographical unit that has no churches. Adoption by local and regional churches living in close proximity with the churchless areas are more effective than ministries that adopt them from more distant areas. The goal is to see every village and neighbourhood adopted for church planting.

Equipping the Local Churches

Adopting a churchless region is simply the first step. It means you are committed to bring the gospel to those places. It is important to follow the adoption by sharing the Gospel. That includes prayer walking, evangelism, discipleship and church formation. Once they are engaged, then discipleship begins.

Keeping the Data Mapping Up to Date

The mapping data needs to be updated regularly so everyone knows how they are doing in reaching the churchless areas. Some people call this a Church Growth Monitoring Cell (CGMC). It provides something to celebrate, and it shows progress on how the number of places without a gathering of believers is reducing in the districts and sub-districts until there is no place left without a gathering of believers.

Strong and Healthy Church Leaders

Starting a new church was the second step. The next step is very important. That is, strengthening the young church's foundation by equipping believers in those new churches to be spiritually healthy leaders and disciple makers. Leadership development that is reproducible should begin in the context of local churches. In addition,

using a Church-based theological education model can accelerate church growth that leads to movements.

One such model is the Global Theological Education Network (GTEN).¹³ There may be other education models and resources available in your language to equip your leaders to build a strong biblical foundation.

Multiplying Churches and Movements

Finally, new churches with spiritually healthy leaders can be trained to produce church planting and disciple making movements. Movements are what will finish the task in districts and regions sooner. So leaders and disciples should be trained to promote rapid multiplication of disciples and churches. There is lot of training materials on multiplication available from a number of people and organizations, so it's good to look for the CPM and DMM resources that are most appropriate for your needs and situation.

No People Group Left (In-depth Engagement)

In the last 40-50 years, much emphasis has been placed on adoption and engagement of unreached people groups (UPG) in different parts of the world. As a result, thousands of people have followed the Lord and many churches have been planted in several previously unreached and unengaged people groups (UUPG). However, many of these engagements have not resulted in church planting movements. Engagement has been rather superficial. As a result, many of those people groups still lack spiritual depth. Deeper engagement is an accelerator for completing the task, because the more mature believers are, the more they start new churches and train more disciples. Superficial engagement can't accomplish the task in our lifetime.

¹³ <https://www.gten.church/>

The following list provides ways to cultivate deeper engagement with new believers and churches:

- Identify workers who will regularly focus on a people group they have adopted.
- Regularly share the Gospel in a language that is best for people to understand.
- Plan on disciple making, reproducing, and multiplying churches planted in many places; not just in one or two locations.
- Provide the people with the Bible and biblical resources for evangelism, discipleship, and leadership training, among other resources, in the language they understand best.
- Train the new leaders to grow in spiritual maturity and depth, so they are more capable of establishing spiritually strong and healthy churches built on a strong biblical foundation.

Determine the Engagement Level

L0	Not adopted
L1	Adopted
L2	Gospel shared
L3	A few believers
L4	A few local churches
L5	Churches reproducing
L6	Churches multiplying
L7	Movement of movements

Assess the level of gospel engagement for every people group in the region where you are working. The L1 – L7 scale can help you map engagement levels to understand how much work is needed for each people group. Use the scale criteria to produce people group profiles with maps denoting their location and population. This kind of

engagement assessment should be done in very smaller geographical unit, such as a district, a sub-district, or a town. It isn't enough that a people group is engaged somewhere in a country. Engagement needs to happen everywhere in a country.

Many engagement strategies have underestimated the importance of Bible resources in the local language, and that has resulted in a weak or superficial understanding of the Gospel. Therefore, it is important to evaluate engagement needs in preparation for deep engagement. For example, do they have a Bible in their language? If not, scripture translation should be a priority. Other important resources are evangelism and discipleship tools available in their language.

Chapter 6

Reaching Every Language Group

So far, we've discussed reaching every unreached and unengaged people group through in-depth discipleship training for strong and healthy people and churches. Now we turn our attention to what it will take to reach every *language* group. As mentioned above, without understanding the language needs of the people, in-depth engagement is less likely to happen. What follows is a task completion list for language groups.

Gospel Access	Every person in every language group should have a chance hear the gospel clearly in a language they can fully understand and respond to until no person is left.
Discipleship Groups and Churches	Every place the language is spoken should have a gathering of believers or communities of faithful disciples worshipping the Lord in their heart language.
Gatherings in the Heart Language	All related people groups sharing a common language should have a gathering of believers and sustaining gospel presence, wherever they are located in their language.
Bible and Bible Portions	Every language, including its dialects of the language, should have communicated in a way that best serves them, such as oral, written, print, digital, audio or all of those.

Language Needs Assessment Tool

The R0 – R7 scale can help you identify the resource needs in the people’s heart language.

R0	No resources available
R1	Bible Stories, Jesus Film, but no scriptures
R2	Some scripture portions, but no NT or OT
R3	One or more books of the Bible, but no NT or OT
R4	New Testament
R5	Old Testament
R6	Some discipleship and training materials including NT & OT
R7	Sufficient resources in addition to the full Bible

Steps to Move a Language from R0 to R7

- First, identify all language groups and their dialects in all geographical units and indicate the locations where they are spoken, such as states, districts, sub-districts, and villages.
- Next, make a profile of every language in the selected region if possible.
- Then, mobilize prayer for every language by the local churches and promote adoption for prayer and outreach.
- Identify every language that has and doesn’t have Bibles or Bible portions by using the R0-R7 scale.

- Identify every language and assess the depth of engagement, using the L0-L7 scale shown earlier.
- Equip local churches with all the necessary tools and resources needed for translation work.
- Help the churches produce quality Bible translation in their local language by providing a team of quality checkers and advisors. The Church-Centric Bible Translation Movement has excellent resources to help with that. See (<https://www.ccbt.asia/>; <https://ccbtacademy.org/ccbt>)
- Produce audio, video, and print Bibles as well as discipleship training materials from those resources as needed in every language and dialect until every person is able to hear and understand God's Word clearly.
- The goal of translation is the impact it has beyond the translation project. So establish strong communities of faithful disciples who make other disciples in every language group.

<https://beyondTranslation.org>

Chapter 7

A Global South Model

A major church network in the Global South addressed the lack of awareness of the Great Commission by promoting the School of the Great Commission (SOGC). They produced the school's resources and curriculum in English as well as in several other languages. That material is available for online and offline learning.¹⁴

Since then, thousands of church leaders and their churches have embraced the vision of completing the Great Commission in their geographical units and beyond. As a result, church planting and discipleship movements are growing in their units, and they set a goal of finishing the Great Commission task as a clear time-bound goal.

SOGC's Areas of Focus

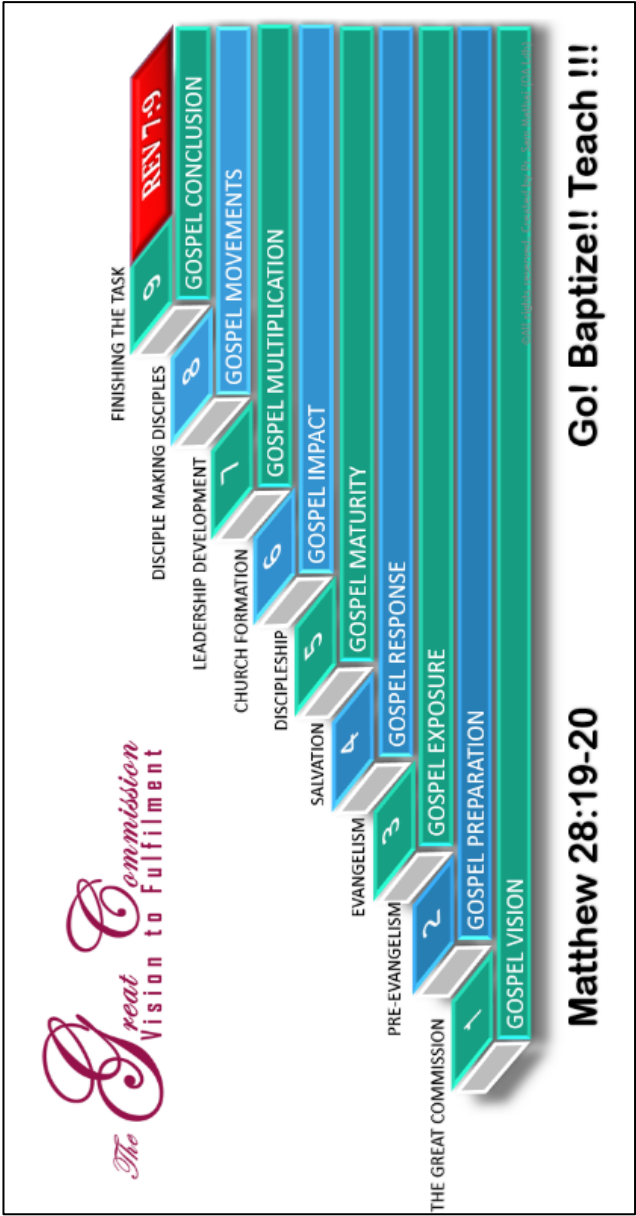
Focus Area	Goal
John Knoxers Movement	Promotes the John Knoxers movement for districts and sub-districts, to help the people in those places to catch the vision and be equipped to effectively work to complete the Great Commission in their communities.
Grassroots	This is a multi-organizational grass-roots movement which is rapidly gaining momentum in

¹⁴ <https://schoolofgreatcommissionglobal.learnnn.com/the-school-of-great-commission>.

<https://sogc.church>

	several nations as they receive a God-sized vision to finish the Great Commission.
Local Gatherings	Gather pastors and church leaders in their districts and sub-districts for breakthrough prayer, vision casting, and training.
Frangelism	Promote FRAN prayer and FRANGELISM in their churches among all believers.
Mapping	They are mapping the level of engagement of every people group in their districts. They also map all places without gatherings of believers, promote an adoption drive, followed by intentional evangelism and church planting.
Language Surveys	They identify all the languages and dialects in their region without a Bible and equip the local churches to translate Scriptures following the Church-Centric Bible Translation Movement.

SOGC Nine-Step Process



Conclusion

This brief book is an attempt to create a road map for finishing the Great Commission with measurable outcomes. The basis for the book is on the firm belief of the centrality of the Church in accomplishing God's purpose in this world. While this book isn't a comprehensive guide, it does offer enough strategic thinking for those who need guidance in launching and growing a strategic Great Commission movement where they live.

Every church has a role to play in completing the Great Commission. In Acts 20:24, Apostle Paul says,

"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace."

Passionate Great Commission champions, like John Knox, will say, "Give me 'Scotland' or I'll die."

We know God uses different methods and different people in different nations. Our recommendations come out of the practical experience of seeing millions of people being prayed for, thousands of churches being planted, and millions of people having Bibles in their heart languages.

Let us continue to focus on the goal of finishing the Great Commission in our lifetime. Together we can say what D.L. Moody said, "It can be done. It ought to be done. It must be done."