
Each spring, the general secretary is required to report to the General Synod Council about progress on the various ends policies established by the GSC. The monitoring report on ends policy E-4: Christ’s Kingdom Mission follows.

ENDS POLICY E-4: CHRIST’S KINGDOM MISSION

The RCA will engage, equip, and encourage congregations and missional communities to participate in Christ’s kingdom mission, both locally and globally.

GENERAL SECRETARY’S INTERPRETATION

“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations” (Psalm 67:1-2).

Mission becomes a way of life when we reach out to people with the gospel, meeting needs in neighborhoods, cities, and throughout the world. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we boldly give witness to the hope within us and willingly serve others by becoming the hands and feet of Christ in every corner of the world. The RCA commitment is to respond with God’s love to meet spiritual and individual needs around the globe. It is envisioning the people of the RCA as a movement of faithful followers who live and love like Jesus as they radically follow Christ in mission together.

Individuals and churches experience transformation as they open themselves to be used by God and reach out in giving and receiving, learning and sharing, and extending the kingdom of God through missional engagement. It means bringing the good news of God’s grace in Jesus Christ to those who have never heard the message, mobilizing RCA congregations to connect with global partners for greater kingdom impact, helping resource volunteers for expanding involvement in mission efforts, and extending compassion, mercy, and justice in places of discrimination, poverty, famine, disaster, and injustice. In a world of brokenness and need, we offer help, hope, and tangible expressions of God’s love.

OVERVIEW

Six initiative teams work within the Mission strategic priority: Local Missional Engagement, which helps congregations express the gospel of Christ in transformational ways in their local community; Global Mission Engagement, which equips congregations to increase their global mission impact; Church Multiplication, focused on reaching the spiritually disconnected with new churches that proclaim the gospel; Volunteer Engagement, which provides opportunities for volunteers of all ages to engage in service for Christ; and Cultural Agility and Advocacy, focused on equipping congregations for cultural competency and empowering them to advocate on behalf of the marginalized. RCA Disability Concerns also falls under the umbrella of the Mission strategic priority.

LOCAL MISSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Local Missional Engagement helps churches discern what God is doing in their church and in their communities and helps explore ways to bring those things together. Local Missional Engagement hopes to help churches unlock their missional imagination to see what is possible. Local mission also brings groups of churches together to explore what mutual mission looks like in their context. Effective local mission ministries can transform neighborhoods and cities. The Local Missional Engagement initiative is led by Eliza Cortés Bast.
Year Five Goals (June 2017 to June 2018)

- Develop one new guiding coalition/leadership community process with emerging leaders around race and social justice, in collaboration with our undergraduate institutions.
- Launch two local impact areas that mobilize at least three congregations for collective impact on their community.
- Hold six to eight connection events.

Progress

- Local Missional Engagement (LME) has begun conversations with our educational institutions and some of our next generation engagement partners to begin a learning process that would be launched in fall 2018.
- Staff from Local Missional Engagement are meeting with the city of Zeeland, Michigan, for a proposed impact area around business development and next generation development for social entrepreneurship.
- As LME has continued to find ways to integrate mission as a holistic approach with the other strategic priority areas of Transformed & Transforming, we have moved to curating learning opportunities that highlight that approach in conjunction with other initiatives. Connection events have been and will be held as a collaboration between Local Missional Engagement and Women’s Transformation and Leadership, Disability Concerns, Cultural Agility and Advocacy, Next Generation Engagement, etc. Events have been and will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan; Fulton, Illinois; Portage, Michigan; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Sioux Center, Iowa; and New York City, New York. We also created online connection events around the We Are Speaking movement in partnership with Women’s Transformation and Leadership, an advocacy movement for women and girls who have experienced violence and their allies. Cultural Agility and Advocacy and LME are also developing an online experience that addresses ministry concerns in post-industrial cities.
- One Local Missional Engagement learning community presented in conjunction with Church Multiplication is in progress. Four church planters are working together to explore a stronger local mission focus in their church plants.
- Local Missional Engagement is also launching a learning community in conjunction with Transformational Processes with six churches in Fulton, Illinois. The goal of this learning community will be to help close the gap on discipleship and local missional pathways.
- Local Missional Engagement has also partnered with Disability Concerns to launch a learning community around mental health issues and the church. Five churches are participating in this learning community.
- Through the Local Missional Engagement initiative, the RCA was awarded an implementation grant from the state of Michigan to initiate math interventions for students in the Wyoming, Michigan, area. Local Missional Engagement staff met with local superintendents, district leaders, and educators to help design a math program targeting the students in this low-income area who are struggling to perform at grade level in math. The RCA received the grant. However, due to transition in some of the Wyoming churches as well as internal RCA staffing transitions and losses, Local Missional Engagement asked the state of Michigan for a stay on the award for one year to see if agency could be moved to the local school system.
- Local Missional Engagement also partnered with Women’s Transformation and Leadership to bring forward the We Are Speaking initiative and its coordinated
resources, providing a rallying statement and clear response to the abuse and harassment of women and girls in our communities.

Five-Year Goals (June 2013 to June 2018)

- For churches that have engaged in Local Missional Engagement learning and leadership communities:
  - By 12 months after the process, at least 50 percent of congregations will have adjusted ministry plans and begun work with key community partners.
  - By 18 months after the process, at least 50 percent of congregations will have begun new ministry projects and processes with key community partners and stakeholders.

- In the local impact areas, all churches will have identified their key community partners and stakeholders. Within six months of the process, all churches will have begun to implement their strategy to impact their local community. Within 12 months of the process, all churches will have adjusted resources to appropriately support their area’s focus.

- Local Missional Engagement will actively work with the rest of the Mission strategic priority area staff to create integrated, holistic learning environments and processes for churches to best assist them in their self-selection process of their missional pathway.

- Local Missional Engagement will develop and launch an experiment lab model for new approaches to local mission in learning and leadership communities.

- Two hundred RCA congregations will be equipped for increased local missional engagement with tangible missional impact, reflecting sacrificial service, authentic relationships, and spiritual transformation that are holistically linked to discipleship (transformational engagement) and leadership development.

- Fifty congregations will have engaged in substantial and quantifiable local missional engagement, with identified and sustained community partnerships.

Progress

- In learning communities that were launched or completed from 2016 onward:
  - At least 50 percent of congregations who have completed learning communities are adjusting ministry plans and have begun work or conversations with key community partners, such as schools.
  - None of the Local Missional Engagement learning communities are yet 18 months out after the completion of their process.

- In our first impact area (started in 2014), churches in the Wyoming area had identified the school system as their key community partner. Although the work has continued on with the schools, there have recently been some shifts in the existing churches in this area that have caused the impact to slow down. Local Missional Engagement is reevaluating the strength of this strategy in Wyoming. As we are continuing to test this model, we used our position as a convening agent for ecumenical conversations around affordable housing and are identifying two other churches in the Midwest to spearhead work around economic development as a means of community partnership. The conversation is slow, staggered work as we have capacity, but we are working to give churches better agency in leading the work to create the best chances for long-term sustainability.

- Local Missional Engagement has been actively working in the Mission priority area to create joint learning opportunities to best integrate the work that is being done. We will complete our first learning community across the Mission area (jointly between Local Missional Engagement and Church Multiplication) this
summer. This learning community also joined with the Ezra Project 2.0 learning community for one of its shared learning opportunities. Local Missional Engagement is also working with RCA Disability Concerns, with whom we have launched an additional learning community combining advocacy and education around mental health issues, both inside and outside the church.

- In the past 18 months, Local Missional Engagement has participated in combined learning opportunities with Next Generation Engagement and Transformational Processes (in the Discipleship strategic priority area), along with the previously mentioned work with the Ezra Project and Women’s Transformation and Leadership. We are currently implementing a joint process between Global Mission and Volunteer Engagement that will provide an integrated methodology around a global visionary experience with one of our mission partners that can easily be translated into an ongoing local experience for a congregation. We hope that these integrated opportunities will become the new standard for Transformed & Transforming work, as we recognize that, in the healthiest churches, learning and work in the three strategic priority areas of Transformed & Transforming are linked.

- Local Missional Engagement has had more than 110 churches connected through one of our delivery systems in under three years. However, we have not yet found the best possible way to measure local impact for these churches.

**New Five-Year Goals (June 2018 to June 2023)**

- LME will identify a pre- and post-process for learning opportunities for churches that allows those churches to self-identify their current local impact.
- The Local Impact Area process will be finalized, and at least five bi-national areas will be identified, with churches taking primary agency in the local work.
- Each regional synod will have an identified and trained local missional engagement coach in their area who can help equip, resource, and coach the local work with a strong understanding of each region’s context.
- Local Missional Engagement will have a curated “toolbox” of resources that will be useful within all of the initiatives in the Mission strategic priority (all of the initiatives listed in this report). This toolbox will give RCA congregations access to the content of the best contemporary resources for local mission.
- Local Missional Engagement will have a clearly identified and integrated strategy for local churches that provides learning around justice, compassion and aid, and evangelism.
- One hundred fifty RCA congregations will be equipped for increased local mission engagement with tangible missional impact, reflecting sacrificial service, authentic relationships, and spiritual transformation.
- One hundred congregations will have engagement in substantial and quantifiable local missional engagement, with identified and sustained community partnerships.

**GLOBAL MISSIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

For more than 150 years, RCA Global Mission has been bringing the Word of God to people around the world. Hundreds of missionaries and volunteers have left the comforts of their own communities to be present in distant places, all in an effort to “live and love like Jesus.” We are excited to continue to live out that goal while we more closely engage with congregations.

The Global Missional Engagement initiative in Transformed & Transforming is focused on engaging and equipping congregations to serve Christ by serving our international
neighbors around the world. Through service, congregations have transformational experiences that equip them to become agents of transformation to the indigenous populations with whom they serve in our global community.

The Global Mission team is focused on providing clear pathways to help congregations explore their call from God in a global context, to develop the capacity to live out that call, and to develop partnerships with other congregations and missionary organizations in order to carry out God’s call for mission.

This initiative has three areas of focus:

1. Church equipping: Developing, implementing, and working with individual congregations and clusters of congregations to provide consulting services, expanding the work of RCA congregations around the world in quantity, quality, and impact.
2. Global strategies: Global Mission staff will develop strategic goals for RCA mission in Africa, Asia, the Americas, the Middle East, and Europe that have measurable outcomes in the next five years. These goals will lead to ministries of transformation that will bring congregations and indigenous populations closer to Christ.
3. Restructuring: Global Mission staff will continue to develop and identify missionaries and mission partners that will work with our congregations to achieve our strategic goals.

**Year Five Goals (June 2017 to June 2018)**

- Revise the church engagement process in order to implement it with current Global Mission and development staff as a consultation service following the departure of the coordinator of Global Missional Engagement from RCA staff.
- Continue expanding the two existing strategic impact areas—Nicaragua and South Africa—by engaging more RCA churches and continuing progress toward the measurable goals established for each area.
- Begin another strategic impact area in Brazil, which will include a medical mission, church planting, and missionary training.
- Increase RCA church engagement in the above strategic impact areas.

**Progress**

- New consulting tools and systems are being developed for Global Mission and other RCA staff to present to churches interested in expanding and deepening global mission involvement. The goal is to standardize the message presented by all those who engage churches and to keep the information that they need current.
- Existing strategic impact areas:
  - Botshabelo, South Africa:
    - Of the 12 target outputs identified in 2017, six significantly exceeded the goal numbers (foster care, church engagement, pastors’ training, life skills training, family preservation, fatherhood program, and family reunification).
  - Nicaragua:
    - Twelve local pastors in Nicaragua learned new preaching techniques, and 48 local church leaders studied together in six groups to learn about the Protestant Reformation and how to preach from biblical text.
• One hundred sixty children receive food and medical care at two feeding stations in Bluefields, enabling them to stay in school and hear the message of the gospel.

• New strategic impact area—Brazil:
  o A job description for a project leader has been widely circulated, and interviews took place this spring.
  o The strategic impact area leader will be introduced along with the Brazilian partner at General Synod where an invitation will be given to attendees to join in this new network.
  o Work is underway to develop a network of RCA and Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) church planters who will engage in a peer-to-peer partnership with church planters in Brazil.

• Increase RCA church engagement in strategic impact areas.
  o Church engagement in Nicaragua:
    • Forty-three RCA churches are connected with the ministry in Nicaragua.
    • Nine RCA groups visited the mission field—a total of 88 individuals.
    • Fourteen congregations participated in two regional gatherings in northwest Iowa and West Michigan.
  o Church engagement in South Africa:
    • Thirteen individuals representing four RCA churches visited Botshabelo in 2017.
    • Ten RCA churches are actively engaged in the Botshabelo network.
    • Four regional gatherings were held in New York and New Jersey in 2017.

Five-Year Goals (June 2013 to June 2018)

• Twenty-five congregations will have participated in Re:Forming Missions, and 75 percent of these congregations will have developed and begun implementing their mission action plan.
• Three church networks will have formed, equipping and encouraging groups of churches to collaborate with each other and RCA Global Mission personnel for deep impact in three global impact areas.
• Two immersive global engagement experiences will have been facilitated, introducing participants to a global impact area and equipping them to implement what they learned by initiating a global ministry in their own congregation.
• Partnerships will have been established with ten RCA congregations who were not previously engaged with RCA Global Mission.

Progress

• The Re:Forming Missions process was put on hold with the departure of staff. New processes are being formed to continue the engagement process for RCA churches in global mission.
• Strategic impact areas have been formed in Nicaragua, South Africa, and Brazil, which are impacting these communities deeply in the areas of orphaned and vulnerable children, community development, sustainable food sources, and church planting.
• Two RCA-sponsored immersive global engagement experiences have been facilitated in the last year.
  o An immersive global mission experience in April 2017 gave RCA women an immersive look into the global mission work of missionaries JJ and
Tim TenClay in Italy. This was a collaborative effort with Women’s Transformation and Leadership. The participants are networked together for continued learning and implementation of ministry initiatives among their congregations.

- A peer-to-peer learning immersion experience with the CRCNA/Resonate Global Mission and RCA pastors took place at the Al Amana Centre in Oman, as well as in Egypt and Bangladesh, to further Christian–Muslim relationship building. Participating pastors then brought what they learned back to their congregations and colleagues.

- Between 2013 and 2018, more than 20 RCA churches began supporting RCA mission personnel and projects through Partnership-in-Mission (PIM) shares. These churches did not previously support RCA missions through PIM shares. In addition, seven non-RCA churches began supporting RCA missions through PIM shares.

**New Five-Year Goals (June 2018 to June 2023)**

- Global Mission will initiate another strategic impact area for a total of four strategic impact areas around the world that are making a measurable impact in people’s lives.
- Global Missional Engagement will continue to develop tools and resources for RCA churches to deepen their mission involvement.
- Goals for current strategic impact areas:
  - Nicaragua: Increase the network to 50 churches; build the second feeding center in Bluefields; increase the number of children fed by 15 percent.
  - South Africa: Build a network of 30 RCA churches; facilitate 300 local adoptions for children in Botshabelo.
  - Brazil: Create a network of ten churches; hire an initiative leader missionary.

**CHURCH MULTIPLICATION**

The RCA continues to start new churches that further the gospel—reaching the spiritually disconnected, bringing them into a community of authentic relationships, and introducing them to the God of grace who transforms lives and eternities.

Preceded by prayer and Holy Spirit empowerment, a multiplication movement is built on a solid foundation of assessment and evaluation of church planters and church planting locations and then strengthened through training. It encourages the ongoing ministry of church planters and new churches by providing coaching relationships and networks of planters for learning, support, and accountability. It expands as new congregations reproduce and established churches join in starting new churches.

We have been tracking seven strategic benchmarks that we believe will accomplish the multiplication vision and 15-year strategic plan. We are seeking to increase both the quantity and the quality of our church plants every year. One central qualitative benchmark is to organize our new congregations within five years of their launch date; at the time of organization, the church will be thriving, missional, reproducing, self-supporting, and self-governing. Another benchmark is that more than 40 percent of our new plants will be congregations of color or multicultural from the start. Finally, more than 50 percent of the growth of these congregations will come from new professions of faith, reaffirmations of faith, and/or adult baptisms.

In 2017–2018, we have added an eighth strategy: to develop fully-functioning church
multiplication teams in more of our classes. Today 55 percent of our church plants are coming from five classes; 14 classes are producing 82 percent of our plants. Since 1999, 30 classes have produced one or no plants. Our staff is coming alongside classes that are ready to become reproductive, helping them develop vision, systems, teams, resources, and strategies for church planting. With grants funded by the Church Growth Fund, we are currently working intently with two classes. We believe this will improve the quantity and quality of our plants through more local nurturing and engagement.

Planting churches to reach spiritually disconnected people requires constant adjusting and innovating. We are working with our partners within the RCA and CRCNA to explore new ways to reach our world. Presently we are exploring smaller plants led by bi-vocational pastors or supported by sustainable funding enterprises, particularly for rural small communities and under-resourced urban settings and among immigrant people groups where a full-time pastor, facility, and program are otherwise unattainable.

The Church Multiplication initiative is led by Mike Hayes, Tim Vink, and Randy Weener with operational assistance from Eduardo Rodriguez and Dawn Muller.

Year Five Goals (June 2017 to June 2018)

- Ten congregations will be activated for parenting that have not done so in the last five years.
- The cultures of two classes that had minimal church multiplication activity before this year are now shaped for multiplication, with a functioning Church Multiplication team, vision, budget, and staffing.
- Sixteen new RCA congregations will be planted.
- Eight congregations will be organized that are thriving, missional, and reproducing.
- Ten church plants will be started that are intentionally ethnic/multiethnic/multiracial or are congregations of color or are led by a female planter.
- Eight hundred new disciples of Jesus Christ will be engaged in new church plants.

Progress

- Ten new congregations have been activated for parenting and are in the process of developing a New Congregation Plan (NCP).
- Two classes are well on their way to developing fully-functioning Church Multiplication teams and are already identifying their first plant. In addition, exploratory conversations have started in four other classes.
- Four NCPs have been approved. Others are in the process of being approved.
- Three church plants have either organized or been started as additional sites of organized churches.
- Two of the four approved NCPs are ethnic church plants or are led by a female planter.
- It is too early to get accurate records on new disciples, but a safe estimate is 150 people among those four new plants.
- Four new Spanish-speaking planter coaches have been trained.
- We continue to meet annually with a strong Mission Catalyst Coalition (MC2) leadership community of 22 high-capacity parent churches from the RCA and CRCNA.
Five-Year Goals (June 2013 to June 2018)

- One hundred new RCA congregations will be planted in all eight regional synods, reflecting increased church multiplication momentum and effectiveness.
- Fifty congregations will have organized and be thriving, missional, and reproducing.
- Forty intentionally ethnic/multiethnic/multiracial church plants, congregations of color, or congregations led by a female planter will be started.
- Five thousand new disciples of Jesus Christ will be engaged in new church plants.

Progress

- Seventy-nine New Congregation Plans have been approved.
- Thirty-three congregations have organized.
- Forty-five percent of the new congregations are ethnic/multiethnic/multiracial church plants, congregations of color, or congregations led by a female planter.
- 4,791 new disciples of Jesus Christ have been engaged in new church plants, plus a conservative estimate of 1,400 from the 14 new multi-sites that have started.

New Five-Year Goals (June 2018 to June 2023)

- One hundred new RCA congregations will be planted.
- Twenty-five classes will have functioning Church Multiplication teams and will have planted at least one church in the previous 24 months.
- Fifty congregations that have not parented a church plant in the previous five years will become activated for parenting.
- Fifty ethnic/multiethnic/multiracial church plants, congregations of color, or congregations led by a female planter will have been started.
- Fifty congregations will have organized and are thriving, missional, and reproducing.
- Five thousand new disciples of Jesus Christ will have been engaged in new church plants.
- Twenty-five new congregations will be planted in Brazil by North American RCA church plants.

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

The Volunteer Engagement initiative is focused on empowering, equipping, and engaging RCA volunteers of all ages in service for Christ through mission volunteer opportunities that have a transforming impact on individuals, congregations, and the partner communities in which they serve. We believe that when volunteers serve in the name of Christ, whether in their local community or around the world, their service can have long-term impact on all participants.

This team, led by Stephanie Soderstrom, is focused on supporting congregations and equipping volunteers for service with RCA missionaries and mission partners. We work with volunteers throughout the planning process, providing support on the field and helping to ensure effective debriefing and follow-through.
Four Areas of Focus

1. Mission trips:
   Working with local, long-term ministries, mission teams can help meet needs, build relationships, and share the hope of Christ. Mission trips are available for teams of all ages.

2. Disaster response:
   When disaster strikes, RCA volunteers can help provide much-needed support in the months and years that follow. Individual and group opportunities are available.

3. Individual volunteer opportunities:
   Opportunities are available for students and adults to serve for a few weeks or up to two years alongside RCA missionaries and partners.

4. Church equipping:
   Working with RCA churches, we will offer resources, training, and equipping processes to help them take their next step in volunteer engagement. These equipping resources will be available to churches that serve through the RCA and to those that do not.

Many RCA churches have been engaged in sending volunteers in mission for years. Our vision is to become value-added for these churches as well as for churches that are new to engaging volunteers in mission. Additionally, we will seek to engage individuals, especially the next generation, in dynamic volunteer opportunities and internships that allow volunteers to utilize their unique gifts to contribute to the long-term goals of our mission partners.

The RCA will engage all generations of volunteers in service for Christ through bi-national and global mission volunteer opportunities that will have a transforming impact on individuals, congregations, and the partner communities where they serve.

Year Five Goals (June 2017 to June 2018)

- Engage 1,500 volunteers in service with RCA missionaries and mission partners.
- Serve 150 churches through equipping processes or mission opportunities.
- Develop and pilot a mission gap year program to serve 20 young adults in year one.

Progress

- Engaged 1,455 volunteers in service with RCA missionaries and mission partners.
- Served 96 churches through equipping processes or mission opportunities.
- Developed the Cultivate program, a mission program to send young adults ages 18–25 to serve alongside RCA missionaries and mission partners. Recruited and trained 12 volunteers to participate in Cultivate during the 2018–19 year.
- A peer review process for Standards of Excellence in Short-term Mission is scheduled, and we anticipate that accreditation will be granted.
- Additionally, in the 2017 calendar year, the Next Generation Missional Engagement Fund awarded 56 scholarships—a total of $80,863 that has benefitted 321 young people.
Five-Year Goals (July 2013 to June 2018)

- Engage 5,000 volunteers with measurable impact on youth and adult participants, sending congregations, and partner communities.
- Support 200 congregations through volunteer equipping processes or mission volunteer opportunities.
- Become fully accredited with the Standards of Excellence in Short-term Missions and develop tools to help volunteers, congregations, and mission partners align with standards.

Progress

- Engaged 5,285 volunteers with measurable impact on youth and adult participants, sending congregations, and partner communities.
- Supported 226 churches through volunteer equipping processes or mission volunteer opportunities. Volunteer resourcing includes the Next Generation Missional Engagement Fund Scholarship and the SENT devotions. The SENT devotions are crafted by Volunteer Engagement to engage groups in growing discipleship while on short-term mission trips and are now being released annually.
- As referenced above, Volunteer Engagement has a peer review scheduled with the Standards of Excellence in Short-term Mission, with the expected outcome of full accreditation.
- As of February 2018, the Next Generation Missional Engagement Fund has awarded 187 scholarships—a total of $230,685 that has benefitted 992 young people.

New Five-Year Goals (June 2018 to June 2023)

- Engage 11,500 volunteers in service with RCA missionaries and mission partners.
- Support 150 new congregations through volunteer equipping processes or mission volunteer opportunities.
- Maintain full accreditation with the Standards of Excellence in Short-term Mission.

CULTURAL AGILITY AND ADVOCACY

Cultural Agility and Advocacy (formerly called Missional Mosaic) focuses on helping congregations to live more fully into the biblical vision of shalom and the human hope of the beloved community. The initiative is led by Earl James.

The ancient Hebrews spoke the word *shalom* both at greeting and parting. The word meant “peace” but conveyed more, including life with complete wholeness wherever one lived, worked, and worshiped.

The beloved community grows naturally out of Jesus’ own hunger for the felt unity of his followers, mirroring the unity he shared with the Father (John 17:20-23). That unity expresses a readiness to engage everyday life in close friendship and to actively take a stand when society and societal systems block access to the abundant life for people and places God created.

Cultural Agility and Advocacy offers congregations two pathways as they strive for shalom and the beloved community, helping congregations:
Increase their cultural agility.
Advocate by addressing public policy.

“Cultural agility” begins with whatever culturally-rooted style of communication a person or congregation has and focuses on adapting that style when communicating, negotiating, and building trust with other people, congregations, or groups whose cultures differ from one’s own.

As congregations increase in cultural agility, tangible, sustainable transformations can occur in leadership, outreach, discipleship, and worship.

In advocacy, congregations come to see and engage public policy matters and practices as simply a third expression of their shared compassion ministries. Many congregations express compassion by “giving a fish.” They see a need and meet a need. Food pantries are excellent examples of “giving a fish” compassion ministry.

Congregations also express compassion by “teaching to fish.” By sharing any particular knowledge, skill, or ability, they assist a person or family in overcoming a particular life challenge that threatens them. Tutoring and financial stewardship ministries are excellent examples of “teaching to fish” ministries.

Not very many congregations ask, “Why do so many people and families need those fish to begin with?” Advocating by addressing public policy results in congregations partnering with others to make tangible differences in everyday life challenges, locally or globally, for hundreds of thousands of people and to add greater liveliness and focus to the shared life of the congregation itself.

Staff coordination for the African American Black Council shifted to Cultural Agility and Advocacy in August after the untimely death of Antoine “Tony” Campbell, who coordinated that work for the past several years.

**Year Five Goals (June 2017 to June 2018)**

- Two cultural agility learning communities.
- Two cultural agility connection events.
- One advocacy learning community.
- Six advocacy connection events.

**Progress**

- Three cultural agility learning communities were engaged.
  - The learning community in the Synod of the Heartlands, which uses a repurposed Sankofa journey ministry model, continues with an anticipated positive conclusion in April 2018. The congregations and participants have worked well together, learning how cultural agility affects both race and ethnicity relations, as well as intergenerational living, leadership, and ministry.
  - The learning community in the Synod of the Great Lakes launched in October 2017. Over time, the congregation and participants have been engaged well on cultural agility within their congregation, families, and geographic communities. Interestingly, they are also acquiring new knowledge and skills around active listening, conflict management, and change theory as they grow as culturally agile people and leaders.
The learning community in the Synod of the Far West was closed due to low participation.

Additionally, the African American Black Council is developing a pilot learning community to be launched in the spring that will assist a congregation to become more open to intergenerational leadership and membership at cultural and influence-bearing levels.

- Three cultural agility connection events were successfully completed.
  - The October joint meeting of the GSC and commissions began with a cultural agility connection event for new members. Participants explored a biblical foundation for cultural agility, learned about culture and its various levels, change blindness, implicit bias, the dynamics of cultural agility, and several skills for cultural agility levels.
  - The African American Black Council’s fall gathering featured an impactful poverty simulation in which participants learned about engaging in-depth living and ministry across socioeconomic realities and cultural lines.
  - A group of three Great Lakes Synod male pastors who share a building have been working on their personal relationships and thinking through how their churches could relate better with one another. One pastor is Latino and leads a Latino church plant, one is Nepalese and leads a Nepalese church plant, and one is white and leads a white congregation. Together, they traveled on a re-purposed Sankofa journey to visit a pastor in the Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantic who is a white woman. She has developed and grown a high level of church engagement with community that, coincidentally, led to a 350 percent growth in her worshiping community. The Great Lakes pastors learned much from that experience and are beginning to implement some lessons learned. They are also looking into some customized approaches to turn their landlord-tenant relationship into a true and deep ministry partnership with a possible learning community format as a guide.

- One hybrid learning/engagement community experience took place.
  - Following the March 2017 mass incarceration connection event, several participant congregations began new work. One church in the Regional Synod of New York formed a nonprofit to work with children who have incarcerated parents. A congregation in the Regional Synod of Mid-America formed innovative relationships with area judges and police and with their community behind a new approach of police-community relations. Another congregation in the Regional Synod of New York expanded its ministry to assist prisoners who are reentering their communities.

- By June 2018, eight advocacy connection events will have occurred.
  - Two Israel-Palestine connection events in the Regional Synods of the Great Lakes and the Heartlands were completed in partnership with Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), a nonprofit of which the RCA is a founding member. More than 30 percent of the participants signed up to engage with CMEP on an ongoing basis, and more signed up to engage with the redesigned RCA Israel-Palestine Ministries.
  - Two basic biblical advocacy connection events were held in the regional synods of the Far West and New York in partnership with PICO National Network (People Improving Communities through Organizing), a U.S.-based, church-rooted advocacy network. Two primary outcomes for participants were deeper understanding of the biblical roots of advocacy as an expression of love and an increase in active listening skills and disciplines for how people who serve others can “share presence” with others who need their presence and love.
  - Three care of creation connection events have taken place. One was held
in the Regional Synod of Albany; by the end of March, two others will be held in the Regional Synod of the Great Lakes. These events are being conducted in partnership with the nonprofit Creation Justice Ministries of which the RCA is a founding member. Goals are to increase congregational discussions and awareness about care of creation, encourage periodic incorporation of caring for God’s creation in worship services, share ways for making church buildings and our homes more energy efficient, and identify pathways for making differences locally and nationally through public partnerships and advocacy. We are exploring how to open a similar customized care of creation initiative in Canada.

In March, we will hold an advocacy connection event in partnership with Mission Year at Northwestern College. We are calling the event “Diversity–Justice–Solidarity: Centering God, Embodying Our Faith.” Students will explore their identities in Christ and map linkages through love, from who they are to how to stand with people where they live, work, and worship.

Five-Year Goals (June 2013 to June 2018)

- Nine cultural agility and advocacy learning communities or advocacy impact teams will have launched involving 40 congregational teams.
  - At least 50 percent of the cultural agility learning community congregational teams will make a shift in leadership, outreach, or worship with the long-term goal of better reflecting their geographic communities.
  - At least 50 percent of the advocacy learning community teams will form ministry partnerships with pertinent, successful advocacy groups or launch their own congregational advocacy ministries.

- Thirty-five cultural agility and advocacy connection events will have been held, engaging representatives from 200 congregations.
  - At least 25 percent of the cultural agility participants will become directly connected to successful cultural agility groups or their congregations will participate in cultural agility learning communities.
  - At least 50 percent of the advocacy participants will become directly connected to successful advocacy groups or their congregations will participate in advocacy learning communities or impact teams.

Progress

- Seven cultural agility and advocacy learning communities or advocacy impact teams have been launched, involving people from over 40 congregations.
  - We have not been able to chart long-term sustainable cultural agility change in terms of shifts in leadership, mission, or discipleship, but we have seen short- to intermediate-term shifts. From organizational development perspectives, long-term changes need to be guided for at least five years as opposed to the one to two years that learning communities normally last. To our knowledge, no churches have changed demographically enough to approximate their geographic communities.
  - The mass incarceration impact community has resulted in deep change in two congregations. One has formed a nonprofit to assist with its ministry to children of incarcerated parents and the other has formed innovative partnerships with local police and judges.

- Thirty-six cultural agility and connection events will have been completed by June 2018, involving more than 300 congregations and more than 600 people.
  - At least 26 of the connection events resulted in more than 40 percent of the participants engaging further in the topical area through the work
New Five-Year Goals (June 2018 to June 2023)

(These goals assume the same or similar initiative configuration for the next five years.)

- **Cultural Agility**
  - Seven new learning communities and three new leadership collaboratives will launch. Eighty percent will show demonstrated increases in cultural agility knowledge and skill development, and 20 percent will have new fusions of cultural agility in leadership, mission, discipleship, and/or worship.
  - Twelve connection events will be held; 30 percent of participants will increase cultural agility knowledge, and 10 percent will engage in cultural agility learning communities or leadership collaboratives.

- **Advocacy**
  - Seven new advocacy engagement communities (a hybrid of learning communities but more focused on action) will begin.
  - Twenty-five connection events will be held; 50 percent of participants will partner with organizations that engage in advocacy work, and 10 percent will assist their congregations to launch a new advocacy ministry.

- New synergies are developing between the Cultural Agility and Advocacy and Local Missional Engagement initiatives. We anticipate some fresh approaches to ministry will result from how those two initiatives work together. Other potentials might be realized as Cultural Agility and Advocacy develops new work with other Transformed & Transforming initiatives.

**DISABILITY CONCERNS**

Scripture’s vision of the kingdom is a unifying embrace of the love and grace of Jesus Christ that reaches all people—every race, tribe, people, and language, every disability and special need. Raising awareness and making our churches accessible to people with disabilities establishes a needed foundation, but our own attitudes require even greater transformation so that ministries to and for people with disabilities grow into ministries with and by people with disabilities. The vision of RCA Disability Concerns is to welcome and engage the gifts of all people in Christ’s ministry—becoming accessible, inclusive, missional churches where everybody belongs and everybody serves. A covenant with CRC Disability Concerns between the governing boards of the RCA and Christian Reformed Church (CRC)—in place since 2009—has demonstrated a track record of multiplied effectiveness and continues to deepen ministry impact in both denominations.

The RCA’s Disability Concerns initiative is led by Terry DeYoung.

**Year Five Goals (June 2017 to June 2018)**

- Launch two learning communities focused on Disability Concerns initiatives in the local church (a mental health focus in west Michigan and an adult foster care/group homes focus in New York and New Jersey).
  - By 2019, at least 50 percent of the congregations involved will conduct an accessibility audit, adopt a church disability policy, launch a new disability ministry, develop a new strategic partnership, or make shifts in church staffing or budget.
- Hold five to six connection events designed to raise awareness about advocacy.
with people with disabilities, provide equipping resources, and connect participants to learning communities.
  o At least 50 percent of the congregations involved in the connection events will commit to a learning community or appoint a church disability advocate.

  • Through the leadership of church disability advocates, ten churches will conduct an accessibility audit or adopt a church disability policy, with at least five removing barriers to full participation.

Progress

  • A mental health learning community was launched in January 2018 with four West Michigan churches (two RCA, one CRC, and one RCA-CRC) seeking to improve their welcome and support of people living with mental health challenges. A learning community focused on deepening relationships with adult foster care/group homes remains on the horizon.
  • RCA-CRC Disability Concerns connection events have been held in Michigan (two), New Jersey, Iowa, British Columbia, and Ontario.
  • All church disability advocates identified in the RCA database were encouraged to facilitate an accessibility audit (identifying and addressing barriers in attitude, communication, and facility design) and/or work with leaders to adopt a disability policy for their church. Typically these are lengthy undertakings, particularly an accessibility audit. Further, in November 2016, RCA Disability Concerns initiated a brief accessibility survey of all RCA churches to assist in evaluating physical barriers, communication barriers, and inclusive programming; more than 200 churches participated. The goal was for results of this yearly survey to be added to each participating church’s information in the RCA’s online church search—in part so that potential visitors with disabilities can anticipate if the church will be able to accommodate their needs—but staffing challenges have delayed implementation of this project.
  • In September 2017, RCA-CRC Disability Concerns hosted a three-day leadership conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, that equipped 21 RCA disability advocates plus an equivalent number of CRC disability advocates. Much of the time was devoted to the theme of “Creating Communities of Belonging,” but advocates also engaged in networking, meeting with other advocates in their region, learning about opportunities and resources in their church and regional settings, and setting personal ministry goals for the coming year.

Five-Year Goals (June 2013 to June 2018)

  • Forty churches will have conducted an accessibility audit or adopted a church disability policy so that substantive changes are made in their welcome of people with disabilities.
  • One hundred churches will have identified a church disability advocate who is empowered to champion the full welcome and engagement of people with disabilities so that disability awareness is deepened and people with disabilities are engaged.
  • Fifteen churches will have engaged in local mission efforts, volunteer engagement, or public advocacy campaigns that address issues that are harmful in some way to people with disabilities so that people with disabilities can flourish as active community members.
  • One hundred twenty-five churches will have participated in connection events designed to raise awareness about advocacy with people with disabilities, provide equipping, and connect participants to learning communities.
• Three RCA-CRC learning communities focused on Disability Concerns initiatives in the local church will have been established.
• One leadership community will be established for churches that are engaging people with disabilities exceptionally well.

Progress

• At least 23 churches have conducted an accessibility audit or adopted a church disability policy.
• At least 86 churches have identified a church disability advocate.
• At least 19 churches have engaged in local mission efforts, volunteer engagements, or public advocacy campaigns so that people with disabilities can flourish as active community members.
• One hundred four churches have participated in disability connection events.
• Two RCA-CRC learning communities focused on Disability Concerns initiatives in the local church have been established.
• Five disability leadership training events have equipped, supported, and resourced church disability advocates and regional disability advocates for their local ministry contexts.

New Five-Year Goals (June 2018 to June 2023*)

*Projections are inclusive of outcomes already reported for 2013 to 2018.

• Seventy-five churches will have conducted an accessibility audit or adopted a church disability policy so that substantive changes are made in their welcome of people with disabilities.
• Two hundred churches will have identified a church disability advocate who is empowered to champion the full welcome and engagement of people with disabilities so that disability awareness is deepened and people with disabilities are engaged.
• Thirty classes will have appointed a regional (classis) disability advocate.
• Forty churches will have engaged in local mission efforts, volunteer engagements, or public advocacy campaigns that address issues that are harmful in some way to people with disabilities so that people with disabilities can flourish as active community members.
• Two hundred churches will have participated in connection events designed to raise awareness about advocacy with people with disabilities, provide equipping, and connect participants to learning communities.
• Five RCA-CRC learning communities focused on Disability Concerns initiatives in the local church will have been established.
• Ten disability leadership training events will have equipped, supported, and resourced church disability advocates and regional disability advocates for their local ministry contexts.

ADDITIONAL GLOBAL MISSION REPORTING

Working together to share God’s love with the world

RCA Global Mission exists to strengthen and grow the global church by supporting ministries of compassion, developing leaders, and sharing the good news. Our goal is to provide engagement opportunities for RCA churches to partner with global churches in ways that are collaborative and mutually meaningful that help us all to live and love like Jesus.
Partnership in Mission Shares

The mission personnel and staff of RCA Global Mission would like to express appreciation to the churches and individuals of the Reformed Church in America who so generously support our mission programs. The RCA mission program is supported almost entirely from contributions and Partnership in Mission shares. Without you, there would be no RCA Global Mission.

The Reformed Church in America has 78 active partnerships in 43 countries around the world. There are 48 mission personnel and 41 partner personnel (who are employed by the partner but supported through RCA Partnership in Mission shares). These mission personnel are supported by 449 churches through Partnership in Mission shares. There are more than 93 active projects, including disaster response and projects of compassion. These projects were supported by gifts from 630 churches and more than 2,500 individual donors.

General Synod 2017 set the value of a full Partnership in Mission share for 2018 at $6,700; we are recommending that the value remain the same for 2019. We are also asking that each RCA congregation that does not currently support an RCA missionary with Partnership in Mission support consider taking on a full or partial share of support.

GM 18-1
To keep the value of a Partnership in Mission (PIM) share for 2019 at $6,700. (ADOPTED)

Transitions in Mission Personnel

Richard and Carolyn Otterness were appointed as RCA missionaries in 2005 to reach out to the Roma people in both rural and urban areas of central Europe in partnership with the Reformed Church in Hungary. They worked together with church leaders and Roma congregations to build bridges between the church and secular society. They also worked to improve health care and education among the Roma. Before accepting this call to mission, Dick served as a pastor and administrator for 27 years and Carolyn worked as a nurse and a nurse practitioner. Richard and Carolyn are now retiring from mission service after 13 years in the field.

Richard and Donna Swart were appointed as RCA missionaries to Kenya in August of 1985. After serving in Kenya, Dick and Donna returned to Ethiopia where they had both spent much of their childhood and where the Daasanech people still remembered Dick’s parents, Bob and Morrie Swart. Dick and Donna worked alongside the Kale Hiwot National Church to reach out to and disciple the Daasanech people. They ministered in Ethiopia through the windmill project that enabled the people to irrigate their fields and create a sustainable food source. Donna, a registered nurse, provided for health needs through immunizations and prenatal care. Through the work of Dick and Donna, the Lord has established a viable, self-sustaining church among the Daasanech where 300 worship each week. They are now retiring from mission service after more than 30 years in Africa.

Caleb and Joanna Swart have served the Reformed Church in America as mission personnel stationed in Ethiopia and Tanzania. They started mission service in 2006. In Ethiopia, Caleb and Joanna served alongside Caleb’s parents, Dick and Donna. Caleb was a welder for the Windmill Project, which attained national recognition by the government and news media for providing agricultural development, food security, and better health for the Daasanech people. Joanna served as a nurse in the area of health treatment and
teaching. In 2014, Caleb and Joanna, along with their children, moved to Tanzania to serve with Training in Mission Outreach (TIMO), which trains future missionaries in cross cultural ministry. Caleb and Joanna are pursuing a new business-as-mission opportunity in Ethiopia that involves working for a beef company that will provide income generation for the Daasanech and other pastoralist people groups in Ethiopia.

GM 18-2
BE IT RESOLVED that the 212th session of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, meeting on the campus of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from June 7 through June 12, 2018, gives glory to God for the life and witness of Dick and Carolyn Otterness, Dick and Donna Swart, and Caleb and Joanna Swart and offers a prayer of thanksgiving for their service to RCA Global Mission. (ADOPTED)

New Mission Assignments

The following new mission personnel are all currently in the fundraising stage and will be deployed when fully funded.

Robert and Amy Abel will work with new RCA partner Remember Nhu, an organization that works to end child sex slavery in 13 countries. Bob serves as director of staff care, providing pastoral care, discipleship support, and leadership development to its international and indigenous mission staff. His initial focus is working with Remember Nhu’s Southeast Asian locations to develop a global care strategy for all of the organization’s mission personnel as well as preparing new mission workers to enter the field.

Christopher and Renae Briggs will be partnering with the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf (CCCD). As much as 99 percent of the world’s Deaf population has never been exposed to the gospel, making it one of the largest unreached people groups. In Jamaica alone, tens of thousands of people are Deaf. Many of them have no access to language or education, so there is little hope for employment, inclusion in community life, or understanding God’s love for them. CCCD provides the Deaf community in Jamaica with a language, education, mentoring, and an opportunity to encounter the gospel. Chris serves as campus manager at the Jamaica Deaf Village.

Joshua and Erica Bode will serve at the Protestant Church in Oman. Josh will serve as the pastor of this diverse international congregation in cooperation with an Anglican and a Methodist pastor. He will lead the English-speaking congregation as well as provide support to the PCO’s relationship with the Omani ministry of religious affairs. The PCO church consists of members who belong to the expatriate Christian communities of varied and diverse nationalities, bringing with them a deep commitment to Christ and a passion to serve and follow Christ’s precepts.

Andrew Smothers will serve as the associate pastor for the English Language Congregation (ELC) of the National Evangelical Church of Bahrain, a church planted by the RCA in 1893. He will serve alongside lead pastor Jim Harrison and will be leading the discipleship program for the church, including Christian education programs and Bible studies. The ELC is a vibrant, multicultural expatriate community in a difficult part of the world where political tensions are high.
Deaths
Paul Alderink served as the director of Annville Institute and Jackson County Ministries (now known as Grace Covenant Ministries) in Kentucky for 16 years. He went into mission service along with his wife, Doris, in 1963 after serving in the Navy during World War II and teaching and serving four RCA congregations. Paul died on December 9, 2017.

Jack Buteyn, former RCA missionary in Oman, died on July 20, 2017. After serving for 30 years as pastor of the Reformed Church in Plano, Texas, Jack and his wife, Linda, traveled to Oman to serve as RCA missionaries. Jack served as minister of the Protestant Church of Oman.

Ronald Korver, RCA missionary to Japan, died on May 8, 2018, in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He is survived by his wife, Ruby, who served alongside Ron in Japan from 1948 through 1992. Ron and Ruby both taught English and shared the love of Jesus with students at Meiji Gakuin School in Tokyo as well as at other schools in Japan.

Lew Scudder, longtime RCA missionary in the Middle East, died on November 1, 2017. Lew and his wife, Nancy, served in Lebanon, Kuwait, Bahrain, Turkey, and Cyprus from 1996 until their retirement in 2008. Lew was the fifth generation within the Scudder family to serve as an RCA missionary. The son of Lewis and Dorothy Scudder, Lew was born while his parents were serving on the mission field in Kuwait. He attended Hope College and Western Theological Seminary. Lew also authored *The Arabian Mission's Story*, which is part of the RCA Historical Series.

Earl Smith, former RCA missionary serving among the Omaha people in Macy, Nebraska, died on March 11, 2017. Earl and his wife, Sarah, served Umonhon Reformed Church from 1995 to 2007. Earl’s Native American heritage—he was from the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin—helped prepare him for ministry with Native Americans. Earl and Sarah also served at Comanche Reformed Church in Lawton, Oklahoma; Bussing Reformed Church in McKee, Kentucky; Immanuel Reformed Church in London, Ontario; and Maranatha Reformed Church in Wainfleet, Ontario.

David Wyma, former RCA missionary in Taiwan, died on February 14, 2018. Dave, together with his late wife Barbara, served with the Protestant Church in Taiwan from 1978 through 1990, first with Student Campus Ministries based in Taichung and later with Mackay Memorial Hospital in Taipei.
Words of Hope is an international media ministry founded by supporting classes of the Reformed Church in America. Words of Hope’s mission is to build the church in hard places by equipping indigenous Christian churches and ministries to proclaim the gospel, especially through the use of media.

The areas where Words of Hope does ministry are difficult to reach with the gospel because of poverty, geography, persecution, or social antagonism toward Christianity. Words of Hope partners with existing Christian organizations in these hard-to-reach countries and equips them to more effectively minister in their own language and context, among their own people.

Currently, Words of Hope’s regions of ministry include Albania, Bhutan, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, Niger, North America, South Sudan, Tibet, Turkey, and Uganda. Each ministry field requires its own unique media outreach approach. Depending on the variety of resources and preferences in a given region, an assortment of radio programs, CDs, DVDs, text messages, Internet, Skype, Facebook, print materials, and satellite television are used to proclaim the gospel.

Some notable highlights from Words of Hope’s ministry include the expansion of digital media outreach in Iran, new English projects in North America, and the launch of an exciting new ministry partnership in the Middle East.

Iran is a very difficult place to share the gospel. Currently, less than one percent of the population in this Middle Eastern country is Christian. What’s more, Muslim-background converts to Christianity risk imprisonment or even death if their beliefs are made public. All evangelical churches have been forced to close, and Bibles may not be published.

For twenty years, Words of Hope has been able to spread the good news about Jesus within the country of Iran via radio waves, which are very difficult for the government to intercept. Now, increasingly, the Internet is providing even more ways to contact individuals inside Iran without alerting governmental suspicion. While Words of Hope satellite radio broadcasts into the country will continue, Internet radio broadcasting will be launched this year as well. The online service will allow Words of Hope to broadcast programming 24 hours per day. Even more importantly, it will provide important listenership metrics that will help us shape our content creation for the future.

In addition to online radio, Words of Hope is actively expanding its presence on other social media networks to connect with Iranian listeners. The team currently receives as many as 75 messages per day from those who are seeking to learn more about Jesus Christ.

As we continue to diversify our digital media outreach overseas, similar projects are underway in our North American office. We are excited to announce that audio recordings of the Words of Hope daily devotional will become available this year. These recordings will be released in podcast form to provide a new way of interacting with the devotional. We believe these podcasts will broaden the reach of the devotional by capitalizing on the popularity of the podcast media form.

Two new Words of Hope books are in the publishing process. The first book will be released in July of 2018. It is a devotional book featuring 52 weeks in God’s Word, written by former Words of Hope president Bill Brownson. We believe this book will be an excellent resource for families and small groups looking for a devotional resource. We will also be
publishing an autobiography by Steve Laman, one of our most-loved devotional writers.

As we experiment with new forms of media through which to share gospel good news, we are also blessed to enter into new strategic partnerships that will take the message of hope further. Documents have been signed for the launch of an exciting new ministry partnership in the Middle East between Words of Hope, Back to God Ministries International, and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Egypt.

The new joint project in Egypt is called al-Hoda, an Arabic term meaning “the one who guides others back to the true way, or to God.” The partnership fits well with Words of Hope’s model of coming alongside strong, indigenous ministries in order to help expand and strengthen their media outreach. Using the Internet, social media, and smartphone applications, al-Hoda programs will call the lost to faith in Jesus Christ. The ministry will also distribute discipleship resources to nurture followers of Jesus.

Words of Hope is deeply grateful for the support from RCA churches that continues to allow this outreach ministry to grow. In 2017, contributions from RCA congregations totaled $542,370. We celebrate this generosity, knowing that these dollars are allowing people to be introduced to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Thank you for proclaiming hope to the refugee, the orphan, the oppressed, the impoverished, and the imprisoned. Thank you for sending the gospel out to the ends of the earth.