

Praying for the Unreached: the Basics

WHY PRAY FOR THE UNREACHED?

God has given us:

- the end **vision**: in Revelation 7:9-11, saints from every nation, tribe, people and language worship before the His throne
- an **assignment**: in Matthew 28:18-20, we are commissioned to make disciples of all nations
- a **promise**: in Genesis 12:1-3, God's blessings will multiply from one man to all the families of the earth

Holding on to God's promises, we work on His assignment for us by praying for the unreached so that the vision will become reality.

WHO ARE THE UNREACHED?

The **unreached** do not follow Christ, so they are "**lost**." They also **lack access to the Gospel message** in ways they can understand or respond to. Hindrances include language barriers, cultural differences, geographical challenges and governmental restrictions.

An **unreached people group (UPG)** is defined by Joshua Project as a people group who are less than 2% evangelical and less than 5% professing Christian. About 4 in 10 people worldwide are in a UPG.

A **frontier people group (FPG)** is a UPG that is extremely unreached, with 0.1% or fewer Christians of any kind, and no evidence of a self-sustaining gospel movement. About 1 in 4 people worldwide are in an FPG.

WHAT IS GOD DOING AMONG THE UNREACHED?

God uses many types of activities to reach the unreached, including Bible translation, community projects, crisis response, ethno-arts, anti-trafficking efforts and children's work.

God is also using **disciple making movements (DMM)** and **church planting movements (CPM)**, two methods inspired by Luke 10:1-12. They both aim for multiplication of efforts. DMM seeks to make disciples who will make disciples and usually uses **Discovery Bible Study (DBS)**. CPM seeks to start churches that will start churches. Movements of people turning to Christ lead to more movements.

WHAT ARE ETHNE AND 24:14?

Ethne is a relational network that exists to assess & celebrate what God is doing among the nations, to join together to accelerate movements to Christ among the least evangelized & to become family along the way. The Ethne Prayer Team seeks to mobilize prayer for all UPGs and FPGs. Ethne Prayer also mobilizes prayer for all methods and activities focused on reaching the unreached. Ethne comes from the Greek word meaning "nation" in Revelation 7:9.

24:14 is a relational network that exists to see Kingdom movements engaged in every people and place by 2025. Many different agencies collaborate together using CPM methods among UPGs and FPGs to see the fulfilment of Matthew 24:14. The 24:14 Prayer Task Force seeks to mobilize prayer specifically for movement engagement.

Ethne Prayer Team and 24:14 Prayer Task Force welcome you to join us in praying for the unreached & in mobilizing prayer for the unreached.

Mobilizing Prayer for the Unreached: the Basics

A LIFESTYLE OF PRAYER

Our actions are louder than our words. The more our own lives show the importance of prayer, the more others will be mobilized to pray.

Abiding in Christ is the foundation of life and ministry. Jesus clearly said in John 15:5: “Apart from Me you can do nothing.” Enjoy His presence and rest in Him. Seek His guidance and listen to His voice. Depend on Him alone through fasting and praying with Scriptural authority.

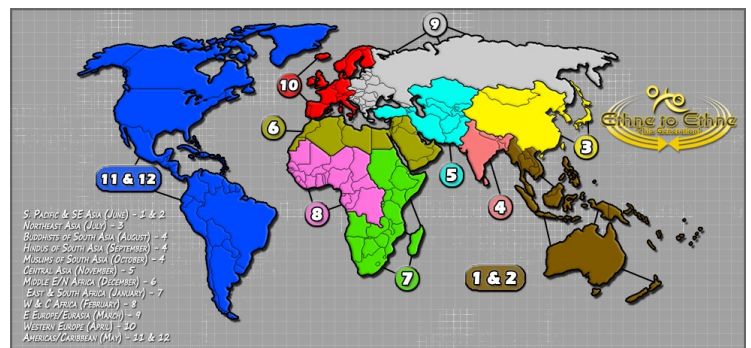
Mobilizing intercession for yourself is also essential. As Galatians 6:2a says, “Bear one another’s burdens.” Ask trusted brothers and sisters to intercede for you as a “prayer shield” or a “personal intercessory team (PIT)”. Communicate with them regularly to share your praises and your requests. Invite them to share how God leads their intercession for you.

PRACTICAL STEPS

1. Pray
2. Start forming a core team of 10 -12 leaders who you can mentor and work with
3. Make an organized list of your contacts to invite
4. Contact and follow up with people who already are involved with prayer networks or CPM movements
5. Try to have a personal conversation with each contact. Strengthen your friendship. Help connect them with others who have similar interests.
6. Establish a monthly meeting with your core team for training and sharing together
7. Establish a monthly prayer time with your core team and wider network to pray for the unreached
8. Stay connected with those who are mentoring and coaching you.

CLARIFYING QUESTIONS

- Where/Who is God calling to your attention? This might be a city, country, region, organization, people group, etc.
- What is God asking you to do?
- How has God gifted you?
- What is the sphere of influence which God has given you?
- Where can you see God at work? (see John 5:19)
- Who might God have you partner with?



Both Ethne Prayer Team and 24:14 Prayer Task Force are global networks. They are each developing regional prayer teams with the goals of having subregional, national and more local level prayer teams. Please ask God in what ways He would have you join us!



MORE RESOURCES

- ethneprayer.org - Prayer, mobilization & partners
- 2414now.net - CPM & prayer opportunities
- joshuaproject.net - Info on people groups, including UPGs & FPGs, Unreached of the Day
- prayerstrategists.net - Training in prayer strategies