



A local market in Kathmandu, Nepal.
Picture was taken by Glen Morris
during recent travels with the APLT

NAVIGATE

GOD'S HEART AND PLAN FOR REACHING THE NATIONS

In February I was invited to visit the Philippines to serve the Navigator work there, prior to travel restrictions and border closures. I went with a sense of uncertainty around what I had to offer. Soon after landing I noticed a warmth in my heart towards the people and place of the Philippines. My travelling companion Agung and I were encouraged as we heard stories of the Good News transforming lives and communities. God helped us to listen, ask questions and occasionally share insights from the bible and our experience. Overall, this was an experience of God's grace as the Lord involved us in his work in the Philippines, and enabled us to encourage our Filipino brothers and sisters.

This year the Lord has impressed on the NZ Navigators a focus on deepening our relationship with God and this overflowing into our labouring and service to others. My experience in the Philippines was a taste of this. As I looked to God each day, I found the resources to be a blessing to others. Reliance on God overflowing to others seems more real when we feel out of our depth. The challenge is to cultivate this in our everyday lives so that the life of Jesus in us spreads to those around us.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought into sharper

focus anxiety about the state of our world. Our fears can lead to preoccupation with personal interests and shrinking of our vision. Focusing on God and his promises has the opposite effect of enlarging our vision and our heart for others. In this issue of Navigate we focus on God's heart and plan for the Nations. How might God use the current global climate to further his purposes? What will it take to bring the Good News about Jesus to the most unreached parts of our world? And, what part does God want us to play in his purposes for the nations?

We want you all to know that our staff and board are praying for all of you during these uncertain times. Please let us know if there are specific prayer items that we can pass along in our networks.

Yours,

Simon

Simon Cayzer
National Director



REACHING THE NATIONS NEXT DOOR

GOD'S GLOBAL MISSION BRINGS CLARITY AND MOTIVATION TO REACHING THOSE CLOSE BY

BY BRIAN WACHTER

Two well-known passages in the Old Testament, Genesis 12:1-3 and Exodus 19:6 provide a framework to help us understand our role in God's plan for reaching the nations. God promised that Israel would become a great nation, as the object of His blessing. Israel's blessing was to be a source of blessing to all nations, ultimately fulfilled through Jesus. As His chosen instruments, Israel would also be on display to the nations, serving God as "a priestly kingdom" and "royal priesthood", sharing with them the way of entering into fellowship with God.

Through Christ, we too are instruments being used by God in His global mission. 1 Peter 2:9 states, *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light"*. (ESV)


As His royal priests, we are now enlisted to proclaim the excellencies of our God and Father, who called us out of darkness, so that the nations would see and hear about His greatness. How do we keep this global goal of reaching all the peoples of the earth with the good news of Jesus Christ in balance with reaching people right next door?

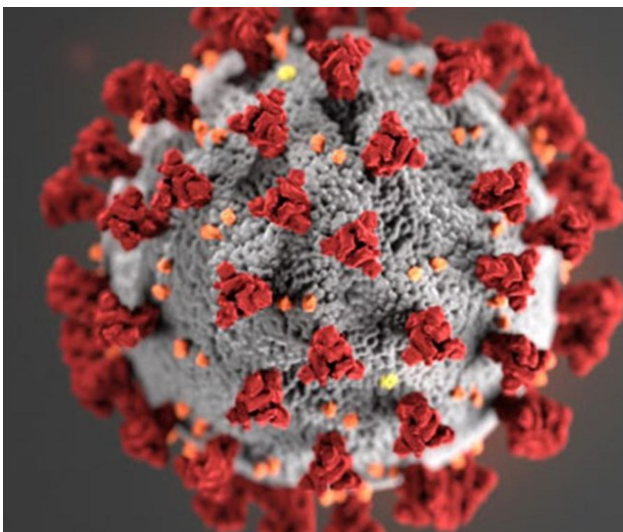
I believe having this global goal of reaching the nations brings clarity to reaching those close by with the gospel. How? Instead of potentially feeling overwhelmed with the daunting goal of reaching the na-

tions, the perspective of being a blessing to the nations starts right next door here in New Zealand! My everyday interactions with those close by take on global significance when seen as part of God's global plan. Simply put, God wants to use me to reach the nations starting right here.

This wonderful truth guides our prayer life as well. I remember years ago as a young believer asking God to use me to reach the nations. While not grasping how this might work itself out, I did not sit idly by waiting to get on a plane. This global focus ignited a desire in me to reach those nearby - to start with the nation, the city, and the neighbourhood I was in. I was encouraged that God used me then as he uses me now. But where do we get started?

Quite often God can use circumstances, good or bad, to accomplish His purposes on a local or global level. We find ourselves at a place in our history where the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 virus has many people asking questions regarding their mortality and spiritual lives. J.C. Ryle once stated, "Sickness is meant...to teach us that there is a world beyond the grave and that the world we now live in is only a training place for another dwelling, where there will be no decay, no sorrow, no tears, no misery, and no sin."

Let's pray together that God would use us, who have been called out of darkness, in His global plan during these challenging times to encourage and point those close by to the hope we have in Jesus Christ. 



"I believe firmly that the sickness of men's bodies has often led to the salvation of men's souls."

– J.C. Ryle

REACHING THE NATIONS WHO ARE FAR OFF

DUE TO SECURITY REASONS THE LOCATION OF THE COUNTRY IS REFERRED TO AS SOUTH ASIA

BY ANNA WACHTER

Hello! My name is Anna and I am in my second year at the University of Auckland studying Psychology and TESOL. God has given me a heart for the nations and serving Him overseas in South Asia. In February I had the opportunity to travel there for a second time with Navigators.

I saw first-hand how the team engages in their ministry with the local people. Many members of the team are currently in the process of language acquisition. Through this training, they connect with and build relationships with local language teachers. It was encouraging to see the way they choose to be intentional in learning the language, to be able to communicate well and share the gospel with their local friends.

I also had the unique opportunity to visit some local friends' homes and share meals with them. I enjoyed experiencing their culture, meeting their families and getting to spend time with them. They are so loving and welcoming of us into their culture. I even got to go to a wedding with over 5000 guests which was an amazing experience.

During this trip, I served the lead couple by caring for their children, ages 1, 4, and 5, to give them more capacity for ministry and language training. The mother



ANNA & FRIENDS FROM SOUTH ASIA

mentioned to me that she connected with her teacher on a much deeper level. I was grateful to serve and enjoyed playing a part in that and seeing God at work.

I also spent time with a young woman who shared her story about how God has transformed her life over the last 15 years. It was amazing to see the depth of growth in her faith despite facing many hardships, such as being cut off from her family as a result of choosing to follow God. It is evident there is a huge cost to following Jesus in this country. Please pray that God would continue to bring more people to know Him, for protection for His people, and for opportunities to share the gospel there. [🔗](#)

REACHING THE NATIONS THROUGH PRAYER



Abram tells God in Genesis 15:2 that he is preparing for his servant to be his heir but God, in v. 4 tells Abram, *"your very own son shall be your heir."* Then God directs Abram outside and asks him to look at the heavens and count the stars.

"Number the stars," God says to Abram, *"If you are able to number them."* Then God says to him, *"So shall your offspring be."* Then the Bible says something interesting, *"And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness."* Right then and there, Abram's doubt vanishes.

Why? Did Abram's circumstances change all at once? Did Sarai get pregnant right that minute? No. In fact, Abram would wait more than fifteen years for the

promised heir Isaac to be born. Did Abram see anything with his eyes that told him that things were now different? No.

What changed was not Abram's circumstances, but his attitude. His way of looking at things. Abram chose at that moment to **believe** that what God said about him was true. He chose to look away from his circumstances and disregard his feelings and trust God's promises instead. He exercised faith in what God had said. Praying and trusting in God's promises, despite circumstances, does that for us too.


Let's continue, as Abraham did, believing the promises that God has given in His Word that He will redeem a people for Himself from every nation, tribe, people and language. Let's continue to trust that God can and will use His people to bring the nations, a multitude too numerous to count, to faith in Jesus Christ. Join us in praying for the nations by downloading a daily prayer guide for the nations here:

www.ehc.org/free-prayer-maps [🔗](#)

HELPFUL TIPS ON RELATING CROSS-CULTURALLY

BY GLEN MORRIS

Glen Morris has recently spent time with Navigator leaders throughout Southeast Asia. Here are some helpful thoughts on relating cross-culturally:

- God speaks Chinese. Not English translated into Chinese. God is a native Chinese speaker and thinker, feeling totally at home in the Chinese way of being and seeing the world. This also applies to all other languages and sub-cultures. Our western English approach is not the 'right' way - it is a valid way to see and be in the world, but not the only valid way.
- God is already there before you arrive. It is easy to think that we bring God and the good news into a situation, but God was already present and working in the lives of people well before we met them. So, a key thing to do is to listen and look for what God has already been doing before playing our part in supporting God's existing work in people's lives.
- Humility and a learner's attitude go a long way. With them anything is possible. Without them you might as well just play games on your phone.
- Two eyes, two ears and only one mouth – use them proportionately. 




BIBLE STUDY: GOD'S HEART FOR THE NATIONS

Join us as we take a deeper look at God's heart for the nations in our study of the Psalms

The book of Psalms reveal to us God's heart for reaching the nations. **Psalm 96:3** says, "Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all peoples." This is a predominant theme throughout the book of Psalms that can bring tremendous encouragement to us as we seek to reach the nations!

Take some time and meditate on the following Psalms that display God's heart for the nations and write down your reflections. Note that when the writers use the word "peoples," they are referring to the nations. Consider the following questions: What is God telling the nations to do? What is God telling us to do among the nations? What is God saying to the nations? What is God teaching you about worship and the nations?

Psalm 2:1–12, Psalm 22:25–31, Psalm 57:7–11, Psalm 66:1–8, Psalm 72:8–20, Psalm 86:1–13, Psalm 96:1–13, Psalm 98:1–9

Take some time over the next few weeks to read, write out, and meditate on **Psalm 67**. After this time of reflection ask, 'What has God been teaching me from **Psalm 67**?' Consider how God has blessed you. Have you ever connected His blessings to you with His desire to reach the nations? How could this potentially impact how you pray for and live with the goal of joining God in reaching the nations? 

 THE NAVIGATORS

To Know Christ, To Make Him Known & Help Others Do the Same.

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The Navigators of New Zealand Inc.
PO Box 5344
Papanui, Christchurch, 8542
Email: info@navigators.org.nz
Web: www.navigators.org.nz
Phone: 03 317 1377