

Week 5: To the ends of the earth: the Least-Reached

Acts 1:8 (NIV) "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Introduction: The Injustice of the Least-Reached

Over 2 billion people in the world today will go from birth to death without ever hearing the name of Jesus. Only 1% of Christian workers and resources go to the 40% of the world's population who do not have access to the Gospel.

The call to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth means finding ways to witness to Jesus' life in the languages and cultural contexts of those who have not yet heard, the least-reached. This is the biggest challenge in global mission today and is an injustice that needs to be confronted.

Insider Story

Ask a Global Interaction Cross-Cultural Worker to share their story the work among the least-reached.

AND/OR

Watch one of the Global Interaction Introduction clips and of Thai followers of Jesus as they share how God has transformed their life.

Story 1: Acts 13:42-52 - Paul & Barnabas going to the Gentiles

Acts 13:47 (NIV) For this is what the Lord has commanded us, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

- **Key point:** after the Jews had opportunity to hear the Good News, the disciples wanted to make sure the Gentiles who had no idea about the Messiah knew that He had come for them too
- **Application:** there are many people in our culture and around the world who have the opportunity to hear about Jesus. However, a third of people around the world have never heard about Him at all. We call them the "least-reached." The Gospel is for them too, but there is no local indigenous church to reach out to them. Unless we are willing to send people to these difficult places, they will never hear that Jesus is alive and wanting to change their lives.

Story 2: Matthew 28:18-20 – the Great Commission

Matthew 28:19 (NIV) "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..."

- **Key point:** Jesus commanded his disciples to share the Good News with people of every nation or people group. But two thousand years later, there are still thousands of people groups who have never heard the Gospel in their own language and culture.
- **Application:** As the Australian Baptist cross-cultural mission we work specifically with least-reached people groups because we believe that the least-reached should have the opportunity hear about Jesus in their own language/culture. We work specifically with nine least-reached people groups where there are not local indigenous churches and/or less than one percent of the population are Christians. This is not a separate mission to the mission of the church, but the logical outcome of the Gospel which is transforming news for all.



Conclusions:

- For those who are following Jesus, how can they become more aware of global mission, and particularly the least-reached, and how can they pray, give and consider engaging with it as part of their personal witness to the Gospel both near and far?
- For the church as a whole, how are we playing our part in reaching the least-reached? How is our support for global mission connected to and flowing out of our understanding of the Gospel mission or witnessing to Jesus in our families, our local communities, amongst the marginalised, and to those who have never heard?

Take home Questions

- How might you respond to the injustice of the least-reached?
- Is this something you feel challenged by, might God be calling you to GO?
- Are there people in your church community (or wider community) that you can support in their cross-cultural mission efforts?

