

Yearning

I've long admired the sort of missionaries sent out by my agency, [Pioneers](#), and others like it. These folks, like Lewis Carroll's white queen, can "believe six impossible things before breakfast." They move to far corners of the earth to be cross-cultural catalysts for something that doesn't exist yet (and maybe never has): an indigenous church-planting, disciple-making movement in their host culture. In a human sense, this *is* impossible, though I have friends trusting God to "[ignite the impossible](#)" (click link for a video about Pioneers work in Thailand!)

A Pioneer named Jim works in a Muslim context in Europe. Reflecting on the amazing promises of [Isaiah 9](#) and [Isaiah 11](#), he writes, "We long to see a movement to Christ among these people whom we serve! Oh how we hope and pray to see revival among the small churches here and breakthroughs among the lost... Pray for just one more person of peace to respond to us. Just one more."

A team leader in a different region writes with similar longing. "I want to see a movement happen here so bad that I can hardly stand it when nothing happens, year in and year out."

Pioneers like these may live for years on prayer and faith, the faith that the author of the book of Hebrews calls "being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1). They hold onto promises like the one Jesus made that "repentance and forgiveness of sin will be preached in [my] name to all nations" (Luke 24:47). "In this world you will have trouble," Jesus also said. "But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Excitement

Around the world the Church is growing, sometimes in places where you least expect it and through those you might not recognize as God's chosen instruments.

Consider the thousands of Filipino Christians who work as servants in the homes of rich Arabs in the Arabian Peninsula, some raising the next generation of Arab leaders. Many have little training in evangelism or whatever might come after it, but the introduction of relationship-based ministry models that attract those who are seeking God and help them discover his Word on their own are getting their attention and starting to bear fruit in the Arab world.

Seminary Graduation

After five years of seminary classes at Multnomah University in Portland, Chris couldn't be more happy to finish his M.Div degree in a few weeks.

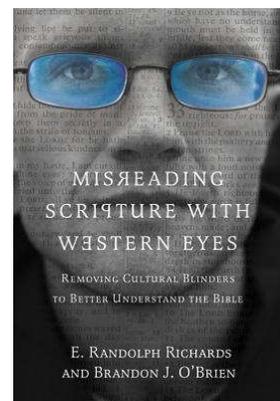
Commencement is May 8. We are so excited! It has felt like a long journey.



Book Review

Want to see the world through the eyes of, say, a Christian in Borneo, or how about first-century Asia Minor? Learning to recognize some of the traps we may fall into as contemporary Westerners reading the Bible is a huge step in that direction.

I recently read a helpful and interesting book, [Misreading Scriptures with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible](#), by E. Randolph Richards and Brandon J. O'Brien. Highly recommended!



There's no silver bullet for ministry strategy, but we can rejoice in how the Lord is working through things like these small-group "discovery" approaches in communities all over the planet. These are amazing days to be alive. See also last week's [Missions Catalyst News Briefs](#) for a stories you might appreciate.

Sacrifice

Visiting missionaries in a remote corner of the earth, a friend of mine was given a bunk in the room usually inhabited by the couple's son. He came across a hidden nook where the little guy kept his treasures and found a piece of paper taped to the wall. "My prayer to God," it said in childish handwriting. Underneath that: "Please send me one boy who speaks English and can be my friend."

Tears welled in my friend's eyes as he told the story to a group of church mission leaders. His grief was contagious. Each of us thought of the missionary kids we know, little guys like this one who didn't choose to be there but are along for the ride. It's true that some adjust more easily than their parents and later look back on the opportunity with gratitude, but many of them (and their parents) long for just one friend who can speak the language of their own heart.

How grateful I am for the friends, supporters, and intercessors who uphold these missionary families (and even families like mine!) Thank you.

Thanks!

Thanks for praying for us, and, with us, for the nations. We're grateful for your partnership in the gospel and praise God for how he is at work and through your lives and ours.

blessings,

Chris & Marti

Where to find us:

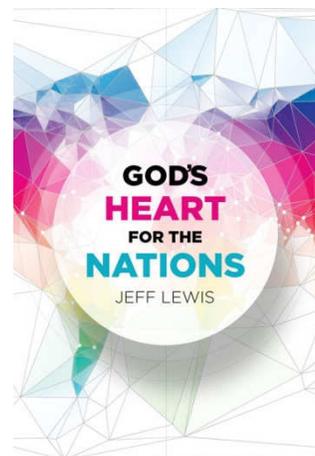
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PIONEERS

Bible Study

Remember the Bible study revision I toiled on last summer and into the fall? [God's Heart for the Nations](#) is back in print!

Interested? [Let me know](#). I'd be glad to send you a copy. Use it for your own study or teaching, or with a small group.



Find previous newsletters or learn more about us at:

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