

# A Time for Everything

Sharon Chan

*“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time to war and a time for peace.” (Ecclesiastes 3: 1-7)*

Surely, there is a time for everything. I am proudly to announce that this publication (*Great Commission News*) will cease to publish after this issue. Our publisher, the Great Commission Center International has decided to wind down at the end of June 30, this year. Please see the Announcement from the Board on page 2 of this issue. Therefore, this will be the last issue of the Great Commission News (GCN).

We first published the *World Mission News* (WMN) in 1997 as a leaflet for promoting prayer and awareness of global mission among churches

and individual Christians. Then, in response to suggestions from our readers that they would like to have more details of the news items that we published and if possible, one or more short articles for inspirational purpose, we decided to upgrade the WMN to GCN in 2001. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our editor, Dr. Samuel C.Y. Ling for his 20 years of faithful service to this publication.

Dr. Ling was a Professor of Physics. He took early retirement for full-time service when he was 55 years old. First, he joined CCCOWE Hong Kong as English editor, later he participated in the editing of Chinese version of NIV Study Bible with Renewal Ministries in New Jersey. Then, he joined GCCI in fall of 1996 and started the WMN in 1997 and continued as the editor of GCN from the first issue to this last one.

It is our prayer that God will continue to remind His children to pray for the unreached peoples that are scattered all around the world and ask the Lord of the harvest to send His servants into the harvest field. Amen!

*(The author is the President of GCCI)*

# An Open Letter to Churches/Organizations/Seminaries and Friends of GCCI

## The Great Commission Center International will terminate its ministries as of June 30, 2017

When the Great Commission Center International (GCCI) was established in the United States in 1993, understanding and involvement in global mission among Chinese churches were very limited. Dr. Thomas Wang, our Founder, hoped that utilizing the networks that he established while serving with the Lausanne Movement and the AD 2000 and Beyond Movement, he would encourage the Chinese Church to make available their God-given rich resources, in partnership with international churches, to the thousands of unreached people groups for the advancement of world evangelization.

In the past 20 some years, through GCCI's efforts in cultivating new mission fields, (passing on established mission works to other bona fide mission agencies); promoting missions to the Muslims, Jews, intellectuals and grass-root peoples; publishing mission-inspiring periodicals; and developing contextualized mission Sunday school curriculum; "Global mission" is no longer an unfamiliar notion for most Chinese churches. Number of Chinese mission organizations has reached three digits. And it is estimated that there are over 3,000 Chinese missionaries in all 5 continents.

In early spring of 2017, GCCI International Board (February 23), Canada Board (March 6 and 24) and Hong Kong Board (March 24, 29) have had their respective meetings to evaluate GCCI's contribution to the Chinese Church. All members agreed that the staff of GCCI have done their best to serve the Chinese Church and glorify God. The vision for Roma Missions that GCCI has initiated since 2013 has inspired the Chinese Church for cross-cultural missions. Several churches and organizations in the United States, Canada, Hong Kong and even Eastern Europe are getting more involved. They are willing to continue their partnership with the Roma leaders in transforming their people and their communities with God's gospel of love. All these are God's wonderful works and beyond our expectation.

Since GCCI has completed God's calling in serving the Chinese Church of this generation, after much soul-searching and discussion, all board members have agreed that GCCI should consider terminating its ministries and passing the baton to a new generation. Therefore, a motion was passed unanimously that GCCI will conclude her ministries on June 30, 2017. However, the already announced short-term mission trips this year will be continued as originally planned. And GCC-Canada will carry on their Roma ministry until the end of this year before passing it on to other mission organization. After ministry winding down in June 2017, it will take 3 to 6 more months to settle all other organizational matters, until our registrations with respective governments are dissolved.

GCCI International board decided to hold A Thanksgiving Service in the USA:

Date: June 24 (Saturday), 2017

Time: 5:00 – 6:30pm (Thanksgiving Service), 7:00 – 8:00pm (Dinner)

Place: Korean Emmanuel Presbyterian Church  
4435 Fortran Drive, San Jose, CA 95134, USA.

We firmly believe that the tide for cross-cultural missions among the Chinese churches will get stronger and stronger. God will raise up more Chinese professionals and mission agencies for global missions. This is our fervent prayer!

Peter Chung, Chairman of GCCI International Board  
Peter Ho, Chairman of GCCI Limited Board (HK)  
Kok-Swang Tan, Chairman of GCC-Canada Board  
Members of all three Boards  
Thomas Wang, GCCI Founder and President Emeritus  
Sharon Chan, GCCI President

March 31, 2017



# Global Leadership for Global Mission

## How mission leaders can become world-class global leaders

Mary Ho

**F**orty years ago, a Taiwanese woman like me would not be leading an international mission organization. However, today, I mirror the globalization of missions. Forty years ago in the 1970s, non-Western missionaries totaled less than 1,000.<sup>1</sup> Today, missionaries from non-Western countries outnumber missionaries from Western countries.

For decades after the Edinburgh 1910 conference, a dualistic mission worldview perpetuated the Western church self-identifying as the sending church and the non-Western church self-identifying as the receiving church.<sup>2</sup> All this has changed. Mission is no longer a ‘one-way street’ from the West to the rest of the world.<sup>3</sup>

### Mission shift

Mission is now a ‘traffic jam’, with workers *coming* from every country, *going* to every country, and *converging* in every country. The Christian church is increasingly a global church. Whereas only about 30% of Christians came from the non-Western world in 1960,<sup>4</sup> about 80% of the global Protestant and Catholic population will be in Africa, Asia, and Latin America by 2050.<sup>5</sup>

The Christian church is a global phenomenon, and mission is a worldwide endeavor.

Global mission leaders will also be leading in an increasingly volatile world of dramatic shifts:

Economically, the majority world is already contributing 70% of global investment growth.<sup>6</sup>

Political power will shift from the Western-led G-7 countries to diverse players, including non-state actors empowered by the rise of technology.<sup>7</sup>

By 2050, most of the population will be living in non-Western countries, with only 12.6% of the world’s population in the West.<sup>8</sup>

By 2050, 71% of the world’s population will be living in cities, but only two of the ten largest cities will be in more developed regions.<sup>9</sup> There will be nearly 2 billion slum dwellers, fueling potential outbreaks of pandemics.<sup>10</sup>

By 2050, another 170 million migrants will pour out of predominantly majority world countries.<sup>11</sup>

Missions today and tomorrow will be concentrated in the majority world where much of the world’s resources, jobs, and population are increasing, but also where confounding socioeconomic issues are intensifying. The mission workforce that will complete world evangelization in this genera-



tion is going to be a mosaic of global leaders, with diverse—even clashing—backgrounds, skills, and experience. In this increasingly complex world, every mission leader is going to have to be a global leader who masters key global leadership competencies.

## Who is a global leader?

In their outstanding book *Being Global*, Angel Cabrera and Gregory Unruh paint the profile of true global leaders:<sup>12</sup>

Global leaders craft solutions by bringing together people and resources across national, cultural, even organizational boundaries. Global leaders are visionaries inspired by a worldwide challenge that remains unsolved, an ignored social injustice or a business opportunity that has gone unexploited.

Therefore, global leaders lead across great divides. They have the remarkable capacity to pool people and resources to make the impossible possible:<sup>13</sup>

They can identify and call on different individuals who together possess all the pieces necessary to make the vision a reality. . . . Global leaders understand the cultural, social, or political differences that keep contributors apart and find ways to build, cultivate, and connect them despite, and sometimes because of, those differences.

Global leaders therefore have developed the key competencies to *connect*, *create*, and *contribute* value across boundaries.<sup>14</sup>

Many have written about global leadership, and most of them have taken one of three approaches: the *universal approach* that focuses on leader as leader, the *contingency approach* on leader as local manager, and the *normative approach* on leader as global manager.<sup>15</sup> None of the approaches are definitive, but as a global leader, I have found each to be invaluable.

## Universal leadership

The *universal approach* considers leadership to be a generalized, universal behavior, regardless of culture.<sup>16</sup> Many of the Western leadership theories, especially value-based charismatic leadership (also known as transformational leadership), have taken this approach.<sup>17 18</sup>

Therefore, although I adapt my demeanor as an Asian woman leader to the different cultures that I encounter, I enter most cultures confidently because I have fostered the charismatic leadership abilities of casting vision, inspiring others, leading a high-performance team, and exemplifying concern and integrity.<sup>19</sup>

Similarly, I conduct a regular self-check of the 22 leadership attributes identified by the GLOBE project—which surveyed more than 17,000 leaders in 62 national societies—as being universally desired in most cultures:<sup>20</sup>

- Trustworthy
- Just
- Honest
- Encouraging
- Motive arouser
- Dependable
- Effective bargainer
- Informed
- Team builder
- Plans ahead
- Dynamic
- Motivational
- Decisive
- Communicative
- Coordinative
- Has foresight
- Positive
- Confidence builder
- Intelligent
- Win-win problem solver
- Administratively skilled
- Excellence oriented

Similarly, especially in trying seasons, I self-evaluate how the eight universally undesirable leadership attributes may be undermining my ability to lead effectively across cultures:<sup>21</sup>

- Loner
- Irritable
- Ruthless
- Dictatorial
- Asocial
- Nonexplicit
- Noncooperative
- Egocentric

Knowing and developing these universal leadership attributes and eliminating undesirable attributes are vital for mission leaders as we lead across multiple national boundaries.

## Contingent leadership

A second approach is the *contingency approach* which assumes that there are no leadership universals and asserts that leadership is a culturally embedded and contingent process. Key works include Geert Hofstede's research and the GLOBE project on the varying dimensions of national cultures and local leadership styles.<sup>22</sup>

As mission leaders, we must learn from the *contingency approach* because research has shown that, firstly, 'leaders behave in a manner consistent with the desired leadership found in that culture' and secondly, 'leaders who behave according to expectations are effective'.<sup>23</sup>

Before I visit a country I would, as a simple first step, thumb through Richard Lewis' *When Culture Collides: Leading across Cultures* which profiles many national cultures.<sup>24</sup> I assess the predominant style of leadership, communication, social interaction, and decision-making in that country.

Then, I look up Hofstede's cultural index to gauge if it is a hierarchical culture, a collectivistic culture, or a time-oriented culture. Is it a masculine or feminine culture? Is it shame and honor-based, or is it guilt-based? I look up GLOBE articles to ascertain if the country prefers a participative or humane or autonomous style of leadership.

Of the various global leadership approaches, this *contingency approach* takes into account local leadership expectations and comes closest to seeing leadership as a cultural construct.

## Normative leadership

The *normative approach* is the most practical for mission leaders and focuses on cultivating global leadership competencies, such as acquiring a global mindset or cultural intelligence.<sup>25</sup> Leaders who possess global leadership skills are able to activate strategies, business plans, operational processes, and leadership styles that transcend multiple national boundaries and teams with diverse backgrounds and motivations.<sup>26</sup>

Among the most practical global competencies are the ten leadership behaviors that Ernest Gundling, Terry Hogan, and Karen Cvitkovich have identified. These fall into five successive stages—**Seeing differences**, **Closing the gap**, **Opening the system**, **Preserving balance**, and **Establishing solutions** (SCOPE).<sup>27</sup>

**Seeing Differences** in two ways:<sup>28</sup>

- **Cultural Self-Awareness** is to realize that one's leadership practices are preconditioned, and that there are alternative ways of seeing things and accomplishing the goal.
- **Invite the Unexpected** is the global leader's learning posture through asking good questions, immersing oneself in the culture, and acquiring knowledge about history, politics, values, language, cultural insights, and points of local pride.<sup>29</sup>

**Closing the Cultural Gap** in two ways:<sup>30</sup>

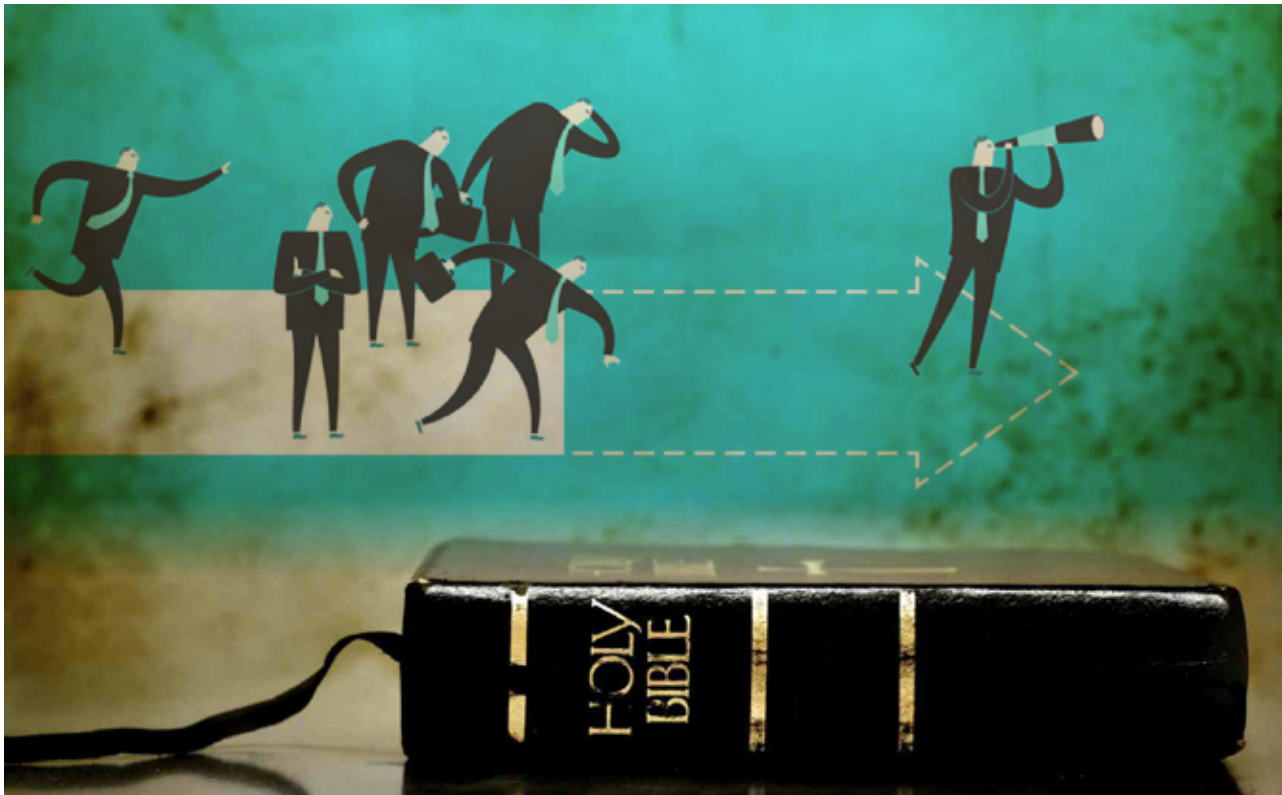
- **Results through Relationships** is when global leaders understand that in most cultures getting things done comes through developing key relationships and social networks, not through formal channels.
- **Frame-Shifting** involves leaders modifying their perspectives and behavior to fit the culture, including their communication style, leadership style, and leadership strategy.

**Opening the System** is vital after the cultural gap is closed.<sup>31</sup>

- **Expand Ownership** is extending leadership to people normally excluded by social and organizational barriers, and crafting processes that are systematically inclusive so that more people can access information and engage in shared goals.
- **Develop Future Leaders** is when global mission leaders proactively identify and develop high-potential leaders who can help a global organization grow in key ways.

**Preserving Balance** between local values and one's own values.<sup>32</sup>

- **Adapt and Add Value** is to balance adapting to local practices with asserting a different perspective without imposing one's views.
- **Core Values and Flexibility** is when global mission leaders authentically incorporate



other values into their own belief systems, behavior, and leadership style, without compromising their core values.

**Establishing Solutions** by drawing contributions across multiple boundaries:<sup>33</sup>

- **Influence across Boundaries** requires mission leaders to serve as ambassadors with political acumen and subject matter expertise across several functions, and to effectively facilitate cross-boundary collaboration.
- **Third-Way Solutions** draw on all of the behaviors to create global solutions.

## Conclusion

Global mission leaders must know when to exercise which cross-boundary skill at different times.<sup>34</sup> Having times of cultural self-reflection is helpful for gauging each situation. I make *cultural self-awareness* my starting point to examine my own prepackaged ideas and practices, and then decide what to set aside for the situation.

Wherever I go, I try to *bridge* boundaries by putting relationship first—not tasks—and forging genuine connection and trust. I inquire by asking all kinds of questions and expecting to be surprised.

In leading global organizations, we as leaders

must facilitate the creative tension between centralization and decentralization, sometimes *standardizing* a single policy or process uniformly worldwide, and other times *selecting* with local leaders to screen and apply outside information that is locally relevant.<sup>35</sup> Sometimes, we *adapt* pre-packaged information to local conditions; other times, we *adopt* by applying an idea from a field location to other locations.

In the process, I have been astounded by the innovations produced by *combining* ideas from centralized and local sources or by *integrating* diverse contributions to create a new norm.

We mission leaders are called to be world-class global leaders. We must cultivate global leadership competencies in the greatest global endeavor—to complete the remaining task of world evangelization in this generation.

## Endnotes

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32. *Ibid.*
33. *Ibid.*
34. *Ibid.*
35. *Ibid.*

(Mary Ho is currently the Executive Director of All Nations Family, a cross-cultural church planting and missions training and sending organization based out of Kansas City. She is also pursuing a Doctor of Strategic Leadership degree at Regent University, Virginia Beach. Born in Taiwan and raised on four continents, Mary has lived in Swaziland, Taiwan, Indonesia, New Zealand, Philippines, Hong Kong, and the US, and has traveled extensively. She is married to John Ho, a bi-vocational architect. They have two boys, ages 20 and 16.)

(Reprint with permission from November 2016 issue of *Lausanne Global Analysis*)

## Special Offer

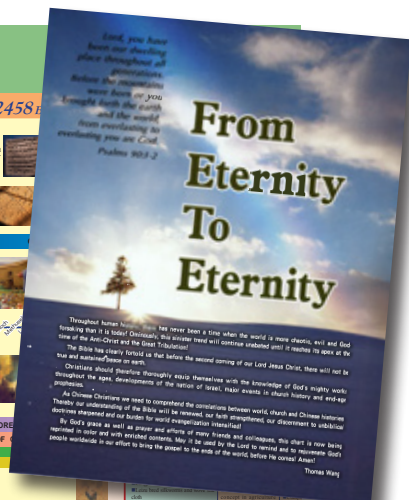
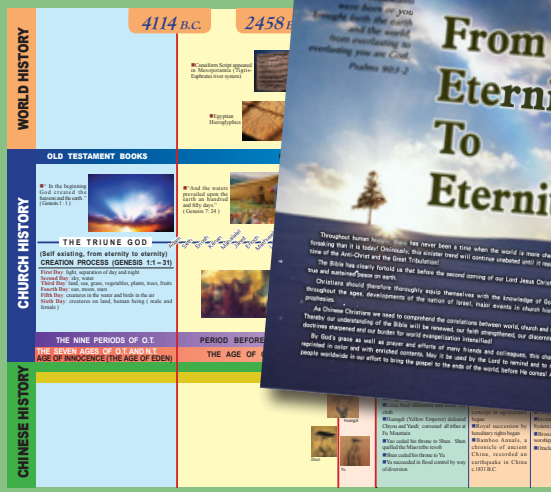
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by Rev. Thomas Wang

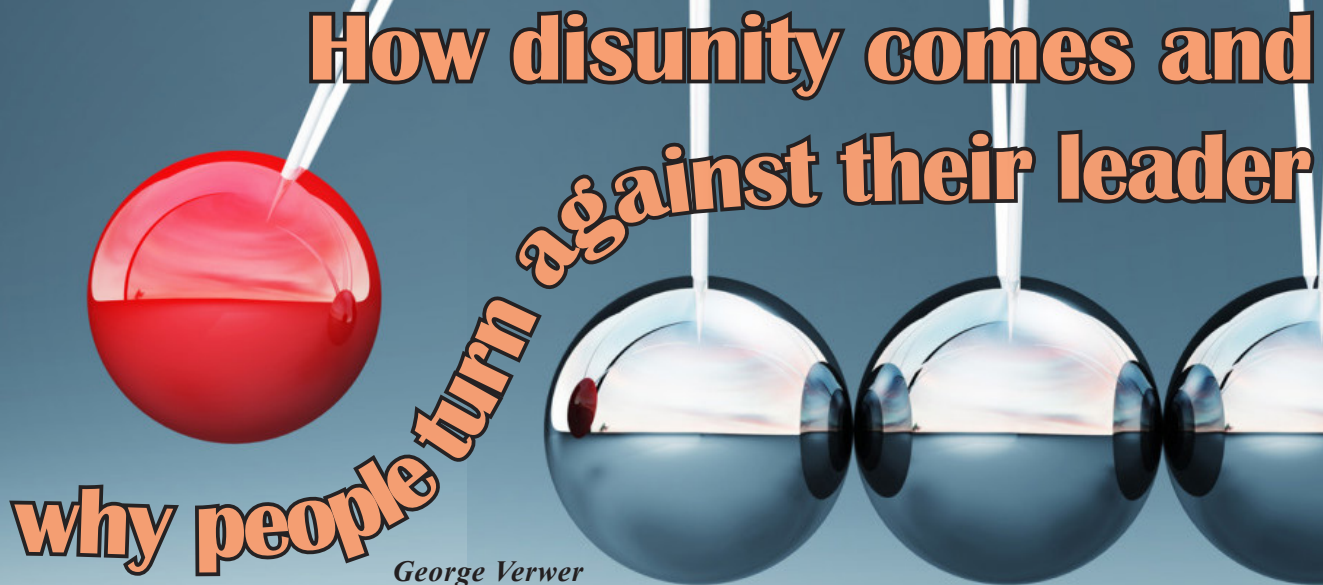
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# How disunity comes and why people turn against their leader

George Verwer

**F**or 60 years I have seen Christian turn against their pastor. When I was a baby Christian two of the men who supported me the most turned against their pastor and wanted him out. My mind was semi-soured against that pastor but I kept loving him and he became without me knowing it a lifetime picture of missiology. We were still friends when he was moving towards 90 and God was still using him. He had many weaknesses and failed in different ways but helped start a number of churches. One of them has supported Drena and me in our home town area for over 40 years.

So, what have I learned from 60 years of this both first-hand and as a Christian news and magazine reader all this time? Yes, a lots of books as well. Here are my reasons.

1. **Our human sinfulness** combined with enemy attacks outlined in Eph. 6:10-20 and many other passages in the bottom line.
2. **Strong minded leaders just naturally do not stick together or work well together.** Doctrine is more important than we realize or know and differences about strategy. I lost one of my best friends in the early days who felt I was not charismatic enough. Do we have any idea of how many tens of thousands of splits and relationship bust ups there have been on that one issue?
3. In full time ministry **money** is more of a factor than we admit. People are quick to criticize if one leader, maybe the head guy, is getting more money than they. (Totally normal in secular situations and they still have tons of money related issues.) People get on extremes on the 'not fair tangent' and it leads to hurt, confusion and a mess. The story of people upset in Operation Mobilization (OM) history over money issues has never been told. The story of often mega generosity and people going the extra miles also has not been much told. Women are often not happy with the money their husband is getting or being treated even when he might be. The complexity and potential for disunity in all this is off the charts. It seems impossible for people not to get hurt. People even threaten to go to court to get what they want. The gossip during these tough situations gets released which increases the disunity. Elements of truth in the gossip combined with untruth is dynamite in the hands of the devil.
4. **The grip of poverty.** We cannot comprehend, if we have not been there, the fear and complexity



that poverty brings. Many people are given low paying jobs in Christian movement. The backbone of much of global missions in terms of the big humanitarian agencies is built on that. Some pay more than others and their senior people get much more. (Some CEOs back in the sending country are getting a million dollars a year.) The complexity of this is off the charts. Yet God has used these movements. When people are fired, unless they are given a “golden handshake” (sometimes to get that, people have to sign that they will not say negative things about the agency) they complain, and gossip and even make threats like going to court. Sometimes they say they have been mistreated even if they have not been mistreated. I have hardly known any agency that did not have negative things being said about them, and I am speaking of hundreds that I have had exposure or contact with. Actually, similar things happen in local churches and I have heard about many of them as I’ve been in many of these churches. There are examples of people going on strike for more money and sometimes bringing the entire company into bankruptcy and then everyone loses their job. Often lawyers have to be involved and sometime unscrupulous outsiders, even non-believers, get involved trying to make some money from it all. People and books have some nice, idealistic answers, often with Bible verses, but that does not put food on the table and pay the rent. People get fearful and desperate and that makes them very vulnerable to do sinful and foolish things often ending up in a worse situation or even prison. Marriages sometimes break in the middle of it. On the other hand, there must be thousands of stories of those who have been helped down life’s road because some Christian agency gave them their first job even if the pay was low.

5. **The grip of culture.** We are all impacted by our culture and especially all that happens to us

before we are even 10 years of age. Getting people to submit to a leader of a different culture who will probably make cultural mistake is very difficult. Keep in mind huge nations that have many cultures and languages. It may go for a while depending on circumstance, but then bang something goes wrong and misunderstanding and hurt comes in. In some cultures telling a lie is not considered that wrong. I just read a key article in well-known acceptable newspaper on the importance of being able to effectively lie and so it’s in some western culture as well. It plays havoc in Christian ministry. Soon people don’t know who to trust.

People take different viewpoints. The truth is very, very hard to find and that really upsets the “total truth/total answer” guys especially when mixed hardball legalism and super spirituality. Mix that with “God always answer prayer and God always heals and delivers” and you have a mess that no one is going to resolve without lot of pain... and who want pain???

6. **The Blame Game.** It’s hard for us humans to see our own faults. We cannot see our blind spots or they would not be blind spots anymore. I still stand amazed on how hard it is, even as a leader, to correct most people. They often immediately turn on you blaming you or pointing out some fault in your own life. In a team or office they

look for someone else to blame and in some agencies they end up blaming the CEO. If they build up their case enough and know key people to talk to, the CEO may soon lose his job (or Senior Pastor). In some cases it will be the team leader or department head. If the person in the first place had the humility to admit his mistake or take the correction, even it is not 100% accurate, then this heavy stuff would have never taken place. I personally feel our own

*The author spoke at the 2014 Roma for the Nations Consultation in Budapest, Hungary.*



movement was better off when everyone had to read the book *Calvary Road*, confessing faults, humbling ourselves, learning to be broken became part of our DNA. How much is still there remains to be seen. The book is hardly read any more even thousands of copies are going out in many languages. There are new similar books like *Bite and Devour* and *Leading with Love* but not many have ever read them. My own books carry this message especially *Revolution of Love*, even my first book about literature evangelism had a key chapter about loving one another.

7. **Handling change** – Hundreds of thousands of churches around the world have split when the pastor or leader’s wanted to make serious changes. Years ago I was at a key church in Copenhagen and 75% of the people left when changes were made. After the changes were made, the church did much better and many non-Christians came and found the Lord. Can you even imagine that churches split over John MacArthur’s teaching and Willow Creeks’ teachings, to list only a few? I guess speaking in tongues must be the global leader for splitting churches. There are whole books written about abusive leadership and books and articles on the abuse of leaders. What blows my mind is how whole new church

denominations are born through such things happening. Hope you have read what I have written about *missiology*.

8. **The tendency to be negative and problem oriented.** Some people for different reasons always seem negative. Leaders should try to find out if people are like that and not hire them in the first place, much more complex in movements like OM. By the way, a number of our key people in those early days completely overthrew their Christian faith, and I am talking about Bible College graduates.

Some people seem to be unhappy no matter what. Your co-worker might be a more positive and forgiving person, but what about his/her spouse? Many a spouse has brought division between their husband/wife and their direct leader. Endless stories, even movies, have shown that harsh reality. So often, human pride is in the middle of it. We need to ask ourselves, ‘How easy is it for people to correct me or exhort me?’ I dare people to read Ken Penman’s almost unknown book about Pride.

*(The author is the Founder of Operation Mobilization.)*

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### Elbasan, Albania

Date: September 12 to 21, 2017

Activities: Vacation Bible School (VBS) for children and youth, English camp for youth, primary health care, and outreach activities

Cost Estimate: Canada \$500 (air ticket to and from Albania not included)

Application Deadline: May 31, 2017

### Skopje, Macedonia and Zrenjanin, Serbia

Date: September 22 to 29, 2017 (Macedonia)

September 30 to October 9, 2017 (Serbia)

Activities: Training of church leaders, medical clinic, outreach activities, primary healthcare, children and youth ministry

Cost Estimate: Canada \$500 for each country (air ticket to and from Macedonia or Serbia not included)

Application deadline: May 31, 2017

For more information, please contact Rev. Grover Crosby ([grover.crosby@rhccc.ca](mailto:grover.crosby@rhccc.ca)) or Mr. Calvin Chew ([cy.chew@sympatico.ca](mailto:cy.chew@sympatico.ca))

# Coming Together Around a Common Biblical Vision

Rick Wood

**I**s it really possible for God's people to work together in unity for the sake of God's glory in all the earth and the spread of His kingdom to all peoples? If you look at Christian history over the last 2,000 years, you would fairly conclude that it is not. But things are changing in our day and the unity that we need that seems so impossible to achieve is more and more becoming the reality on the mission field.

In his "High Priestly Prayer" of John 17, Jesus prayed for his disciples and for us, those who would believe as a result of his first disciples, that we would be one so that the world would know that Jesus was sent from God and that we are loved by God. In verses 22 and 23 Jesus prayed to the Father for us, *"I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."*

I believe that this prayer is in the process of being answered in our day. The global mission community is increasingly coming together in networks and partnerships. There is the growing realization that the task is too big for any one organization to tackle and so much more can be accomplished by working together than can be done separately.

So what would the "complete unity" Jesus prayed for look like anyway? It will not be charac-

terized by a large organization with a hierarchical command and control structure. The clear trend in both church and mission is towards a decentralization of power and control and a move towards the kinds of voluntary networks and partnerships. First of all, we have the unity of partaking of the same Holy Spirit. As followers of Jesus each of us is united in the Spirit. Beyond this, the unity Jesus prayed for will be a unity of vision and purpose where God's people live on mission with Him in obedience to His word to do His will in His ways in the power of the Holy Spirit. We have been given our marching orders in Matt. 28:18-20 to go and make disciples who make more disciples and to do so in all peoples. The closer we get as the global church to abiding in Jesus and obeying what He has called us to do, the more unified we will be as His body—no matter how many moving parts that body may have. Disunity comes from a lack of submission to the authority of Jesus and a failure to obey what He has commanded us to do. It comes from a desire to do things our way rather than His way. The more we rely on the flesh instead of obey the word, the more disunity there will be.

Over the last 27 years, I have experienced first hand the kind of unity Jesus prayed for as I have lived on mission with God. I have worked with Jesus followers from many different backgrounds. I did not have complete unity with these fine ser-



vants of God on every aspect of doctrine, mission strategy, politics and a host of other topics but there were always certain things that we were unified around. We loved Jesus and we wanted everyone else within all peoples to love him too, and we were willing to give our lives to help make that a reality.

## **So What Is This Biblical Vision That Can Unite Us?**

It really is not that complicated. As mentioned above, it is centered on simple obedience to what Jesus has asked all of us to do. Here are some suggestions based on what Scripture teaches.

**We must provide access to the gospel and the knowledge of Christ to every person on earth.** This sounds impossible but is actually doable if we focus on reaching every people group and fostering movements of discipleship in each one. If we employ the multiplication methods that Jesus modeled and Paul used until he could declare that there was “no place left” for him to work, (Rom. 15:23) then it is possible for every person to have access to the gospel. It is the power of exponential multiplication of disciples making disciples. It says in 2 Peter 3:9 that God is “*not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*” Obviously, not all will believe, but all people everywhere deserve to have access.

**Every willing follower of Jesus must be equipped (discipled) to live on mission with God to make more disciples who likewise equip and make more disciples.** The “Great Commission” passage of Matt. 28:18-20 makes it clear that everyone who claims to be a Jesus follower is called to go and make disciples, “*teaching them to obey all that I have commanded.*” One of those commands is to make disciples so multigenerational discipleship is inherent in Jesus’ last words to us in this passage. Paul reinforces this multigenerational discipleship mandate in 2 Tim. 2:2 when he says to Timothy, “*And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach other.*” In this passage we can see four generations of disciples. Whatever method we decide to use to make disciples, we must ask ourselves whether it is successful in producing multiple generations of disciples.

**The “Great Commission,” Matt. 28:18-20**

**must become our identity as followers of Jesus.** Very few churches regularly teach Matt: 28:18-20 as representing the call of Jesus upon all of our lives. This foundation stone of who we are as Jesus followers is often mistakenly taught as something that applies to a few special called out ones rather than something all of us are obliged to obey. This idea that a few are called and most are not brings great disunity to the body of Christ. The regular and proper teaching of this passage would help greatly in bringing unity to the body of Christ as we work together on mission with God to make disciples and bring the gospel to every people. How can we say that Jesus is our King and we are part of His kingdom if we refuse to obey, not to mention teach, what our King has asked us to do?

**We Must Love God and Love Our Neighbor** In Matt. 22:37-40 Jesus said, “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.*’ *This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’* On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.” How do we most effectively fulfill this commandment from Jesus? How do we love God with our whole being? Jesus has given us some clues. In John 14:21, “*Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.*” In 1 John 2:5 it says, “*But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him.*” Love for God and obedience to what He has commanded are inseparable from each other. Our obedience is also key to loving our neighbor. The most loving thing we can ever do for someone is to share the gospel with them. In 1 Peter 1:22, it says, “*Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.*”

We can move ever closer to the complete unity that Jesus prayed for the more we are willing to obey what Jesus has asked us to do and to live on mission together with Him.

*(The author is the editor of Mission Frontiers, a publication of Frontier Ventures, formerly known as U.S. Center for World Mission. Reprint with permission from Mission Frontiers, 2017 Mar/Apr Issue)*



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February 10, 2017

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

## **Make America Great Again ! But how ?**

Dear President,

I am 91 years of age, born in China and have been a naturalized U.S. citizen for 50 years. I am an ordained minister for over 50 years and have served extensively in North America, Asia and Europe.

I never cease to be inspired by the early history of America — the formation of this great nation through the guiding hand of God our Heavenly Father.

I am also forever indebted to the thousands of American missionaries who, in the past 200 years, came to China, braved untold difficulties (including loss of lives), brought the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Chinese people. For such love and sacrifice, we could never forget.

However, my heart has been deeply grieved over the recent downward plunge of our nation in areas of faith, morality, politics, education and cultural trends; especially since the 1960s.

During the past 3 decades, I have been writing letters in every 2 or 3 years to our top national leaders (Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches), all Governors, Mayors of 50 largest cities, media leaders, and presidents of about 1,500 universities and seminaries — a total of over 3,000 letters. Because of my age and health, this current letter may be the last of its kind that I have been doing.

Now, our new President is in charge. We highly admire your courage and tenacity to make crucial changes of our nation. Many are long overdue. May God grant our nation a new beginning — a return to The Faith of Our Fathers! This is the only way for America to be great again! **WE MUST COME BACK TO GOD. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!**

For God has personally promised us: “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” (II Chron. 7:14).

With prayer and humility, let us come to God through Christ our Saviour and plead for His mercy to grant America a genuine national repentance so that America will truly be God-fearing and Great Again!

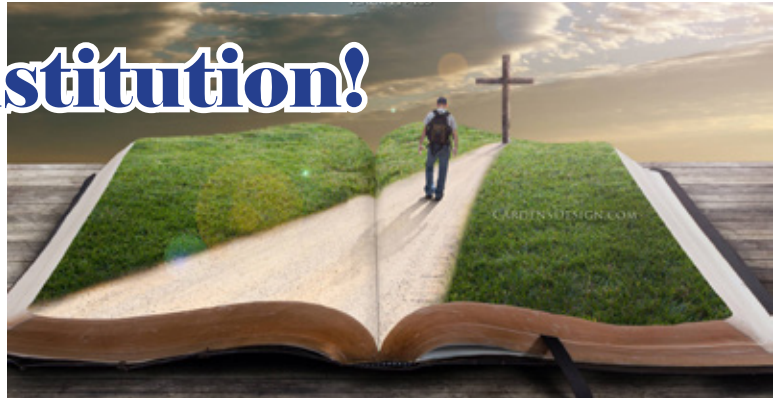
By His loving kindness, may this spiritual renewal of America will soon take place! Amen!

Yours for the Restoration of America,

Thomas Wang  
President Emeritus

# A Higher Constitution!

Thomas Wang



**W**e who have come from the Far East have always admired the Rule-of-Law tradition of the western society — with justice and equality to all!

Then of course, we do further realize that each born-again Christian bears a double identity — citizenship of both earth and heaven, and consequently should observe laws of this earth and laws of heaven! Let us explain,

## 1. Laws of our Earthly Nation

As apostle Paul said, *“Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established .... For he is God’s servant to do you good.”* (Rom. 13:1, 4)

Example: Paying tax, conscription, traffic regulations etc.

## 2. Laws of our Heavenly Kingdom

As Christians, we should respect laws both of the earth and heaven. Because high above our national Constitution is the Constitution of God – the Bible (the word of God), which should be observed by all Christians regardless of nationality.

Example: The three close friends (Shadrack, Meshach and Abednego) of Prophet Daniel, because of their faith in God, defied the king’s order to bow down and worship a huge image which King Nebuchadnezzar built, were thrown into a blazing furnace. But God miraculously rescued them without any harm. (Dan 3)

Some may suggest that this event happened in the Old Testament time, during the age of law. Is it applicable to the New Testament time, the age of grace? Let us look further.

## 3. Christians in the New Testament Time

In the New Testament time, Christians should be mindful of both our “Earthly” as well as our “Heavenly” identities as our obligations.

In the first place, Jesus our Lord has publicly declared: *“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.”* (Mark 12:17) Jesus did not say “Give nothing to Caesar” but rather reminded us of our twofold responsibilities.

The Apostle Peter was more straight-forward by saying, *“fear God, honor the king.”* (I Peter 2:17)

While it is true that God wants us to respect both dimensions, yet whenever national laws clash with heavenly laws (the Bible, God’s word), Christians are obligated to observe the laws of God. This is indeed our highest privilege and duty.

Members of the Early Church were truly zealous for the Lord! When Peter and the Apostles were forbidden to witness for the gospel, they replied, *“We must obey God rather than men.”* (Acts 5:29) Hallelujah, praise the Lord!

Some of the early Christians were oppressed by the chief priests and the leaders and were flogged. But when they were released they actually rejoiced *“because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.”* (Acts 5:41)

O how wonderful it would be if Christians today are imbued with such courage, guts and stamina! We of course should observe our national law. But when our national law disagrees with God’s law, we should resolutely walk on God’s highway! Because above our national Constitution there is God’s Constitution (the Bible, God’s word) which Christians should not trespass! No, never!

*(The author is GCCI’s Founder and President Emeritus.)*





# World Mission News

Compiled by Samuel C.Y. Ling

**Guatemala:** For years an agency in helping the poor, they ask and listen to them about their most pressing need. And very often it turns out to be low self-worth from being discriminated and neglected. So, in addition of providing material help, they show them that they matter to God and they can be agents of change for their community. In one village, daughters have been sent into prostitution to provide for the families. To help reveal true worth of these girls to their families, boarding schools were set up for education and skills training. As the girls were loved and trained, hundreds of them have professed faith in Christ.

<Food for the Hungry, [www.fh.org](http://www.fh.org), 3/21/17>

**Greece:** Agreement between Turkey and European Union has brought near halt of refugees stranding thousands of them on an offshore island. It is reported that there is a growing trend of depression among young adults and children as young as 9 years old resulting in higher rate of self-harm, suicide, and major danger of long-term psychological damage. They have nothing to do and feel hopeless. An education agency is providing Christ-center education both in person and on-line and skilled teachers well trained in PTSD bringing hope though the gospel message.

<Tent Schools International, [tentschoolsint.org](http://tentschoolsint.org), 3/20/17>

**Kenya:** A Bible printing/distributing agency has been working in the country and finds it hard to reach out to the Muslims, as Christians can risk everything including their lives for doing that. A Muslim man in a town, on the coastal region dominated by Muslims, genuinely seeking the truth got converted in a Christian meeting. He has a passion of sharing Bibles passages with those in his Bible study groups. Now he is working with the agency to distribute Bibles and leading people to Christ. Muslims are searching and the Church is growing.

<Biblica (International Bible Society), [www.biblica.com](http://www.biblica.com), 3/16/17>

**South Asia:** SAARC, South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation is a political alliance of eight countries: Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. They also have a high concentration of unreached peoples. Five years ago, an agency helped set up an alliance of mission-minded pastors from the SAARC nations to promote mission in the entire region. Their future plan is ambitious: By using TV/ radio programs, on-the-ground church planters, they plan to train and equip 7,000 kingdom leaders and established 800 churches in 2017. The task is not easy. One pastor found a death threat waiting when he got home.

<Global Advance, [www.globaladvance.org](http://www.globaladvance.org), 3/14/17>

**Asia:** For 8 years an agency has worked in a Creative Access country, a country dominated by a state faith. During this period,

they have seen the numbers of believers grow 600% from a small handfuls. Recently, in a training session for some of the young church leaders, almost all of the over 100 of them are first-generation Christians. The agency is arranging and encouraging mature Christians from a neighboring nation that has access to go in and help mentor/nurture these young churches.

<Bibles for the World, [www.biblesfortheworld.org](http://www.biblesfortheworld.org), 3/13/17>

**Somalia:** The nation has been without any form of government for 20 years. There is a small Christian group of about 200 living very secretly as they are being sought out harshly by the Moslem extremists. In a refugee camp (world's largest with 400,000 people) 25 miles west of the border with neighboring Kenya, most of the refugees are from Somalia. The Kenya government is trying to close down the camp sending the Somalis back. An agency working with the Christians is equipping them with solar powered audio Bibles. Though reluctant to go back, they go with a heart for mission.

<Operation Mobilization, [www.omusa.org](http://www.omusa.org), 3/13/17>

<World Mission, [www.worldmission.org](http://www.worldmission.org), 3/10/17>

**Uganda:** In Uganda for 5, 000 there is only one nurse that can offer basic medical services to the people who usually go to the witch doctors for every type of malady. An agency is starting a nursing school to train Christian nurses. In the two-year program, they get not only the medical training but also ability to share the gospel in order to provide holistic healing to people in the community.

<AMG International, [www.amginternational.org](http://www.amginternational.org), 3/3/17>

**Russia:** It has been 13 years since the Beslan School terrorist attack that took 330 lives, mostly children. The following year, 2005, local churches asked SOAR to help minister the child survivors during Easter. "The Baskets of Hope" was born and has continued through the years, even extending to other hurting and needy children and those in orphanages. "The Baskets of Hope" is much more than traditional Easter baskets of toys and candy, but carefully chosen useful items that exhibit the love of God. This show of love does impact lives.

<SOAR International Ministry, [soarinternational.org](http://soarinternational.org), 3/7/17>

**Japan:** 6 years after the deadly "triple disaster," tens of thousands of people are still in temporary housing. Worse yet, government is ending housing subsidies and financial aid to many. As time went on, so did many responders, except some Christian groups, earning the title of "Mr Christ" in the hard soil of Japan.

<Asian Access, [www.asuanaccess.org](http://www.asuanaccess.org), 3/2/17>

# Calling Christians to Pray for the Muslim World

You are encouraged to join millions of Christians around the world to participate in this largest ongoing international prayer focus on the Muslim world.

This full-color prayer guide has been proven to be an effective tool since its first publication in 1993 in helping Christians to understand and to persistently pray for Muslim neighbors and nations.

The prayer guide is translated into many different languages. To find out which languages are available, please check the 30-Days Prayer Network website ([www.praying30days.com](http://www.praying30days.com)).

There is also a family/children's edition. It follows the same daily prayer topics (shortened and simplified for elementary school-age kids), and also includes some fun activities. Involve the younger members of your church and family!

Please order your North American edition from [praying30days@gmail.com](mailto:praying30days@gmail.com) and Chinese edition from [bookstore@dallaschc.org](mailto:bookstore@dallaschc.org)

