

SPEAK UP. REACH OUT.

BE THE VOICE AND
HANDS OF JESUS

VOICE AND HANDS READER
30 days to being
the Voice and
Hands of Jesus



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friend,

Whether you're reading this booklet in your kitchen, Sunday school class, commuter train, small group or your favorite chair with a cup of coffee, I'm guessing as you pick it up you have a nagging sense that you and your family could be doing more to reach out and make a difference.

But the challenge is great. We live in a society that makes outreach and relationships a struggle. We can rise from our beds in the morning, leave for work, complete our tasks, drive home and close the garage door that evening without ever having a meaningful conversation with anyone.

So what is the answer? There is no simple one. It involves relationships, risk and the unknown.

In the face of a challenge like this, the best thing to do is go to the Source. The best example of the truth declared and love demonstrated is our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's take a 30-day journey to explore some of the things that Jesus did to reach out with His voice and hands. Along the way we will also share with you encouraging stories about how HCJB Global's ministries are making a difference.

Be the Voice and Hands of Jesus today,



Wayne Pederson

President, HCJB Global

*All Scriptures are taken from the New International Version

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DAY 1



JESUS REACHED OUT TO THE UNEXPECTED

Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'" —Luke 4:23

We are practical people. We read about the call to minister to those around us, and we make a quick assumption, "We should start at home." We look around us for what there is to do, and then pray about which of the opportunities we should take on.

Many in Israel probably thought that Jesus should have taken a similar approach. They expected Him to bless the community that had raised Him before He began crossing the countryside. In towns like Nazareth, the community was very important to the identity of each of the children raised there. Because few traveled very far, their identity was shaped by the community.

Even though we are not nearly as connected to our surroundings as people were in Jesus' day, we still derive some of our identity from where we live, work and play. As we consider Jesus' call for us to reach out in word and deed, we immediately think about those things closest to us.

Jesus took a different approach. He did not let his community define His ministry. His outreach was defined by God's direction. So when you ask yourself where to start, don't assume anything. Ask God for direction and follow it whether it focuses two doors down or 100 miles away.



FROM TERRORIST TO MINISTER

Marcelina was just 18 years old in 1979 when she joined the Peruvian Maoist guerrilla force Shining Path to fight injustice and champion the rights of the poor. To her way of thinking, violence was justified if it brought about social change, although as a recruiter she never participated in the killings and brutality that marked the group.

Needing work to support her child and herself, she found work at a factory in Cuzco. There were two ladies who worked there that bowed their heads to pray when they ate. One of the ladies gave Marcelina a Spanish Bible and challenged her to trust Christ. Marcelina didn't give in at that moment, but the relationship with those women had a lasting effect. Through several providential events, Marcelina surrendered her life to Christ at the age of 24.

Marcelina received training through HCJB Global's leadership development courses offered in Latin America. Today she pastors a Quechua congregation in Cuzco, leads cell groups and evangelizes and plants churches the area.



CALL TO ACTION

Focus your passions on things of Christ.



Is someone watching you today who needs the love of Christ?

DAY 2



JESUS MOBILIZED OTHERS TO REACH OUT

*As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."
—Mark 5:18-19*

It's natural for us to learn, try, fail, try again and then slowly perfect a skill. Think about a baby who is first trying to walk or a teenager learning to drive in a mall parking lot. We find great satisfaction in honing an ability and then completing it with increasing skill.

The same is true of our outreach efforts. When we find an opportunity to reach out, we develop the skill and then experience the joy of cooking at the soup kitchen or using puppets for Sunday school.

But Jesus didn't only speak the truth and touch the lives of those around Him. He mobilized others to do the same. In this passage, the easy thing would have been to invite the healed man along with Jesus. Instead, Jesus challenged the man to go out and reach those whom he knew. And he did!

When you consider your opportunities for service, how do you balance the joy of serving directly with the power of mobilizing others? This is a critical element of our service. Next time you go to set up for that outreach event or run the sound equipment, ask yourself who you can take along.



MISSIONS ON THE JOB

At first glance, Southwestern Medical Clinic (SWMC) in Berrien County, Mich. appears like any other clinic with a qualified, professional staff, offering a multitude of specialties and services.

"One unique aspect of SWMC is that we designate part of our revenue for missions," says Warren White, administrator of the mission-minded facility founded in the 1960s. Of the clinic's 350 staff members, 55 are physicians, and another 12 serve overseas as medical missionaries. Donations may support full-time missionaries or help fund specific projects and programs, including short-term mission trips around the world.

"We've been trying to get our staff more involved in missions," White explains. Recently, a group of two doctors, a physician's assistant and other staff members from SWMC went to the Dominican Republic for a week.

In addition to the funds the clinic sets aside for the overseas missionaries, the clinic allows physicians to earn a full-time salary at the clinic during their furloughs every three or four years.



CALL TO ACTION

Be creative in supporting missions.



Are you using the resources at your disposal to support missions?

DAY 3



JESUS ACKNOWLEDGED FAITH

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.
—Luke 7:9-10

Have you noticed how hard it is to take the time to acknowledge something good in someone else? It seems like a relatively easy thing to do, but it's truly difficult. Part of the challenge is that affirmation is quickly set aside in the face of a task to be done. We're always moving forward with one task that is quickly followed by the next one.

In these verses, Jesus stops to affirm the faith of the Roman officer. And Jesus goes on to put this man above any other—including His disciples—in the faith category.

As we seek to be the Voice and Hands of Jesus in our community, we typically get caught up in tasks and activities. Even when something amazing happens, you can just hear someone on the team say, "Well, let's get back to work!"

While there's nothing wrong with efficient use of time and good planning, we should not neglect affirming what God is up to. Just as Jesus took the time to affirm this soldier's faith, we need to be on the lookout for the actions of others that need to be affirmed.



PERSISTENCE IN NEED

Dr. Irina had a unique vision for being the hands of Jesus in Ukraine. While many of the systems communism set up to care for the people had disappeared, the elderly and widows had not.

Many now have no family or funds to take care of them, and they're out on the streets of Ukraine. Because she saw so many elderly in great need, she founded Light to the Lonely, the first nongovernmental organization authorized to perform healthcare work in Ukraine.

Dr. Irina, together with HCJB Global Hands, has been working since 2005 to train the staff, construct a hospice facility and prepare for the chance to serve Ukraine's elderly. After several years of work, the new Hospice Center was dedicated in April 2008.



CALL TO ACTION

Be persistent when God puts something on your heart.



What has God put on your heart recently?

DAY 4



JESUS PRAYED BEFORE CHOOSING PARTNERS

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles. —Luke 6:12-13

Most of us have heard the story of how Jesus called the 12 disciples. We have this picture of Jesus walking up to these unsuspecting individuals with an air of confidence and with His voice calling out their names with authority. He must have been compelling because fishermen and tax collectors alike dropped what they were doing and stepped forward to serve Christ.

But there is a short verse right before the final team is selected. In this verse we are told that Jesus went and prayed all night long about what He was about to do—picking the future leaders of the church. What was He praying for exactly? We don't know, but we can see the results. Those whom Jesus picked were unlikely candidates but were used to bring the hope of Christ to the world.

The moment when you select those you will serve with is a key one. Many times this isn't the center of the process but a mere formality that must be done in order to get to work. Think about a current outreach team that you are on. How much time went into planning how team members would serve together?

So many times outreach efforts fail because of issues and conflicts among those serving together. Jesus knew that the team He worked with was just as important as all the speaking and healing that He did. As you participate in a group effort, pray that each member would bring pure motives and a servant's heart.

A VISION FOR HIS PEOPLE

The Azande tribe, more than 2 million strong, resides in a remote corner of Africa where the Sudan, Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.C.) meet. Mboligihe, a member of the tribe, came to study at Wheaton College.

He had a vision for bringing Christian radio to his tribe and contacted HCJB Global for help. The mission provided the transmitter and antenna for the project. Meanwhile, Doug, an acoustical engineer and professor at Columbia College in Chicago, received an interesting call from his mother.

His parents had served as missionaries to the Azande tribe during his youth. His mother had heard that a young man from the tribe was close by at Wheaton College and encouraged her son to contact him. That young man was Mboligihe. He shared his vision for Christian radio. Convinced that God had brought them together, Doug volunteered to help.

Finally in the village of Dungu, Radio RTK became the first Christian radio station to broadcast the gospel in the Azande language.



CALL TO ACTION

Be willing to use your uniqueness for God.

 **What can you share to help those in need?**

DAY 5



JESUS TOUCHED PEOPLE WITH POWER

“You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’” But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”
—Mark 5:31-34

Think about what it means to be the hands of Jesus. What comes to mind? When we think of Jesus’ hands, we think of both compassionate love and decisive action. At both extremes we know that the hands of Jesus had power.

At every turn, Jesus would stretch out His hands and things would happen. Sometimes the blind were healed, other times a child was given importance and still other times a tear was dried. In this passage a woman touched Jesus in a crowd and His power flowed out to her.

Because of the Holy Spirit, this same power is available to each of us as we serve. When you’re in the middle of a ministry opportunity and you are floundering, Jesus is there to give you the strength and power to be His voice and His hands! It might be a crazy moment when all the kids in the nursery are crying or a work project when you can’t figure out how to move the supplies to the worksite.

Sometimes it’s hard to imagine Jesus providing His power to us. But are we dismissing this story too quickly? If we are on mission with Jesus as His hands, do we believe that His power can reach out through our actions and bless others?

TRANSFORMED TO SERVE

Shaqmi, 27, is from Cape Town, South Africa. He has an effective ministry in schools, telling high school students about the dangers of drugs, premarital sex and other things. He also tells them about HIV/AIDS prevention and has permission to freely share the gospel with them.

Shaqmi is also involved in kids’ clubs, giving youth of junior high and elementary age something to do after school, helping to keep them out of trouble and also sharing the good news of Christ with them.

But he hasn’t always been a believer. Growing up with a Muslim background, he was ensnared by drugs—both using and selling them while in school.

After graduating from high school, Shaqmi was saved, and his life was instantly transformed. His goal was to help others escape the drug lifestyle and other problems that plagued young people in his community.

He is now a full-time staff member at Living Hope Community Center, an outreach of HCJB Global partner ministry CCFm in Fish Hoek, a suburb of Cape Town.



CALL TO ACTION

Use your experiences to reach others.



How can you use your experiences to help those around you?

DAY 6



JESUS WELCOMED INTERRUPTIONS

One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick. Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." —Luke 5:17-20

In the highly scheduled ministry world, interruptions are seen as unprofessional. In our efforts to impress the unchurched world around us and attract the churchgoers that are looking for their next home, we have made the schedule king.

But Jesus didn't mind when His voice was interrupted. As the cot was lowered in front of Him from the roof, Jesus saw the faith and the determination of these four friends and rewarded them with a healing touch. While it caused chaos in the house and ruined the mood of the Pharisees, Jesus knew that the interruption represented a life in need of a healing touch.

When you face interruptions in your outreach efforts, do you treat them as a nuisance or do you see the person behind it?

Ask God how He is calling you to be His voice or hands when you're interrupted.



HANDS BRING COMFORT

Dr. Mike Hardin was staffing HCJB Global's 30-bed jungle hospital in Ecuador along with a resident, an intern and two duty nurses when they were besieged by broken bodies brought in after a fatal bus rollover.

With several people already dead at the accident scene in the Ecuadorian Andes, bystanders—and later ambulances—drove survivors to Hospital Vozandes-Shell, just 25 minutes away.

Dr. Jerry Koleski called it the "worst thing I've seen in 15 years of being a doctor . . . even the least-injured people had cuts and broken bones." At the height of the crisis the power went out in the hospital forcing them to run on emergency generator power.

Jerry credits God for helping the staff treat the injured as they arrived in Shell, "and we were able to comfort and pray with people amid all the mayhem."

Many voices and hands came together during a crisis and helped to bring comfort to the broken and needy. No one person could have done it all.



CALL TO ACTION

Be prepared to show love in a crisis.



Do you remember a time you were overwhelmed and others helped you through the situation?



JESUS RECOGNIZED AN OPEN HEART

"Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." —Luke 7:47

When you begin to reach out there will come a day that will test your resolve to serve God. It's the day that someone you are serving lies, betrays or tricks you, taking advantage of your love and kindness. It happens to anyone who serves others long enough, and there is that discouraging moment when we realize that we did not accurately access the person's heart motives.

Jesus was daily confronted with people who either were legitimately desiring to follow Him or going through motions in order to move their agenda forward. He had to quickly look into their heart motives to determine what was at the heart of their actions. In this verse, He recognized the broken heart of this woman and responded in love.

While we do not have the all-knowing abilities that Jesus had, we have the voice of Jesus whispering in our ear through the Holy Spirit. He is there giving us wisdom that is beyond our own insight. As we listen, we can discern people's motives, decide what service He wants us to focus on and complete that outreach in a way that honors God.

Jesus requires us to prioritize His voice over others and ask Him for wisdom. As we hear His voice, we will know which people that we are serving are coming with open hearts and which ones are coming with other motives.



A GIFT FROM A STRANGER

In hidden places throughout the Arab world, a young woman happened on HCJB Global's radio program by chance one day. She didn't know what it was, but it touched her heart and she began listening in secret. Each day her interest increased and she realized that to know this God in more depth she would need a Bible.

But she knew no Christians. Each day her desire to know this God grew, but her options seemed more and more limited. As despair rose in her heart, she did something unthinkable. She went out to the town square and in desperation went up to the first man she met and asked, "Do you know of the Bible and where I might find one?" In this Arab nation, this was a very dangerous thing to do. However, the man promised to meet her at the same spot the next day and bring her a Bible.

Risking the possibility that the man was laying a trap for her, she returned the next day and he brought a Bible just as he promised. With God's Word in her hand, her faith grew and she began to walk with Jesus faithfully.



CALL TO ACTION

Help people find eternal life today.



What can you do to help people around you find eternal life?



JESUS DIDN'T FOLLOW THE WORLD'S PRIORITIES

So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. —Luke 5:11

The challenge with the world's priorities is that they make sense. We can rationalize and spiritualize the world's priorities, but that doesn't make them more palatable from an eternal perspective.

When Jesus called the fishermen to follow Him, He had just performed a miracle with the huge catch of fish. Amazingly, when the boats are brought back to shore, it says that they "left everything and followed him."

Did you ever wonder, "Who cleaned, stored and accounted for all those fish?" It would have been easy for the future disciples to say, "We will join you as soon as we get this job done." It sounds very responsible. But in this case, it was the wrong choice. The disciples did the right thing by dropping everything and immediately following the Savior.

Many times in outreach the world's priorities creep in. Sometimes it comes in the form of doing a task instead of stopping to pray with someone. Other times it's closing down a ministry because the money doesn't seem to be available—even when you know God wants you to do it. We have all given in to the priorities all around us to the sorrow of our Savior.



JUST THE RIGHT TIME

After spending 11 years in transit, 4,000 solar-powered, fixed-tuned shortwave radios arrived at Radio Kahuzi in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo. They came at "just the right time," said Station Manager Richard McDonald.

In 1994 Galcom called Radio Kahuzi and asked if this ministry could use them. McDonald knew the ministry could use the radios. In 1994, 2 million Hutus fled across the border into the Democratic Republic of Congo after the Rwandan genocide resulted in the deaths of 500,000 people. The refugees lived in 30 camps surrounding Radio Kahuzi for some time.

"By faith, we knew that if God provided the radios, free of charge, He could work out the rest of the details and surely intended the radios to broadcast the gospel to the millions of souls sitting in little tents all over the hillsides with nothing to do but listen to radio. Radio Kahuzi was the only station that could reach them with the gospel."

When the radios finally arrived, thousands of Congolese refugees coming back home received free radios and a chance to hear the gospel message.

 **CALL TO ACTION**

Be open to God's timing.

 **What does God want to teach you as you wait on Him?**



JESUS FELT GREAT COMPASSION

*When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry."
—Luke 7:13*

Living in today's world, we have the grim opportunity to see more tragedy in a 24-hour period than most of humanity has been able to see for many centuries. Television, the Internet, magazines and other communication vehicles feed us 24/7 updates on the trauma that infests our fallen world. In this environment it's hard to have compassion. To cope, we simply turn it off and as a result, our hearts are hardened.

In Jesus day, He did not experience the tragedy globally through His eyes, but He saw more sorrow than most people of His day. This was simply because so many of them came to Him, hoping to be healed.

You can imagine that on many days He was surrounded with suffering from morning till dusk. That is what makes the verse above so incredible. Even with all the suffering that He saw, He still had deep compassion. His heart was not hard to the suffering of people, but instead He cared deeply for their hurts and struggles.

Whether you are reaching out to a neighbor or an AIDS orphan in a faraway country, Jesus can give you that same soft, tender heart for those who desperately need love and care.



PRAYER CHANGES LIVES

Radio Evangelistic Development's station in the West African country of Burkina Faso does more than broadcast the gospel, it also invests in the lives of listeners. Twice a week the station hosts a prayer meeting and follow-up work.

After listening to the programs, five ladies came and shared their problems. God answered their prayers, and they came back to give their lives to the Lord.

A couple came to the station to thank the staff for the broadcasts. They were about to separate, but the programs touched them, and they were reunited.

A Muslim came to Christ after listening for a month. He began attending church and took along his entire family. He is standing for truth in his community.



CALL TO ACTION

Be faithful in God's work.



When is the last time you prayed for someone else's need?

DAY 10

JESUS' HANDS LOOKED FOR THE LOST

*Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."
—Luke 5:31*

There are many decisions to make every day. As we make them, we are intuitively deciding based on many factors. "What is safest?" "What will benefit me and my family?" "What does God want me to do?"

But how often do we ask, "Will this decision bring me in contact with those in need?" It is not likely to be one of our top questions. That's because the answer will lead to uncomfortable situations where we will be confronted with great sin and even greater need.

Jesus was confronted by the good church people of His day when He was spotted at a home with some questionable people. Their sins were public and easy to list, and the onlookers wondered why Jesus would waste His time with them. Jesus simply stated His priorities—to reach out to those in greatest need.

As we consider the outreach opportunities in front of us, this simple answer from Jesus is one way to decide how He might use His Voice and Hands through us. Are we reaching those who truly need spiritual help? Are we looking for the lost or are we simply serving those who are easy to be around?



DOCTOR HELPS CHILDREN

"Can this boy be helped?" Dr. Jim was asked. Jim studied the 12-year-old boy who had been run over by a car a decade earlier. His mobility was reduced to crawling.

More than a decade and several surgeries later, Ivan does indeed walk because a Minnesota pediatric orthopedic surgeon traveled to Ecuador to help children.

"We've come to Ecuador at least once a year . . . sometimes twice a year," Gage said. "We've made well over 20 trips."

Not only have Jim and his wife, Mary, traveled to Ecuador, they have recruited his colleagues at a Minnesota hospital to accompany them. On other occasions, friends from their New Brighton church have traveled with them to do construction work at HCJB Global's Carapungo Clinic in Quito.

"It's a work I have very much enjoyed," the Minnesota physician said of his regular visits. "It's sort of a chance to give back what has been given to me to some extent."

CALL TO ACTION

Use your skills for God's opportunities.



How can you use your gifts for God's glory?



JESUS ALLOWED AFFIRMATION OF HIS MINISTRY

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." —Matthew 3:17

Affirmation is a tricky thing. If you accept it, you look prideful; but if you reject it, your humility seems inauthentic. As you are reaching out with your voice and hands, there will be times when God gives you great success. In those moments you have a choice.

You can either accept the affirmation in the name of the One who made it possible, or you can put down those trying to affirm what God did. If you refuse to accept the kind words, you are losing an opportunity to praise God for what He is doing in your life and ministry.

Jesus could have blushed and hidden when God affirmed His deity to the crowd on the riverbank. Instead, He reveled in it. This wasn't because He wanted praise. Rather, the affirmation glorified God and moved His mission forward.

Many times affirmation is what creates the momentum for what God wants to accomplish among us. Have you ever experienced a moment of praise that inspired you to step out in action?



BIG DREAMS

"God is going to do great things through your life someday," Ludviga said to her co-worker, Talis. She had observed his work for some time now and had witnessed his Spirit-filled life. Talis, a young college student, could not imagine then what God had in store for him. It was the mid 1970s and Latvia, his beloved country, was under Soviet domination. What could he possibly do under these circumstances to further the cause of Christ?

Yet just 1½ decades later the Soviet Union began disintegrating, and by 1990 Latvia was free once again. God used Talis to start Latvia's very first Christian radio station. In the subsequent years, he started several more, but still Talis was not satisfied. Didn't God want all Latvians to be able to hear the gospel? He desired to make that happen, but he couldn't do it alone. Talis contacted HCJB Global for help.

Staff from the HCJB Global Technology Center in Elkhart, Indiana, traveled to Latvia with a transmitter for the partner's eighth station and to assist with strategic plans to blanket the entire nation with the gospel. Since then, HCJB Global has provided transmitters for three more stations. The mission recently sent a transmitter and antenna for the 12th station.



CALL TO ACTION

Dare to dream big things for God.



What big dream has God put on your heart?

DAY 12

JESUS' VOICE SPOKE THE TRUTH

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." —Matthew 4:17

It is difficult to speak plainly in today's sensitive culture. The efforts to create a civil and accepting society keep us tied to a very general language about our relationship with Jesus.

As we strive to be relevant and engage those who have long rejected the traditions of the church, we speak a language that can easily fog up the glass that the lost must look through to see the love of Jesus.

The voice of Jesus was so clear. He simply stated the eternal reality of those who would follow Him, question Him, judge Him, and beg Him for help. The voice of Jesus brought clarity to those who were open to the message.

But here is the tough part. His voice confused those who were hard hearted and unwilling to trust Him. So even though His words were clear and precise, much of the impact had to do with the listener. If their hearts were not ready, then Jesus' words seemed like lunacy.

This presents an interesting challenge for us as we reach out to others. Our job is not to make the message relevant as much as it is to speak truth. The Holy Spirit works in the hearts of those who are ready to accept His words and waits patiently for those who are still struggling.

AN UNLIKELY EVANGELIST

Tuce and Lizbeth are probably the last people in the world you'd expect to find running a radio station—and yet they are—broadcasting the gospel to a Muslim country where it's desperately needed.

In Kupang, one of Indonesia's provincial capitals, the couple made the decision to partner with HCJB Global to bring a Christian radio station to their hometown. Tuce caught the vision for radio and received permission to start the Christian station which he launched with his own money in 2004.

They erected a 120-foot tower in their front yard to mount the antenna. Lizbeth FM is now the second-most popular station in the city, an area with 500,000 people.

Their sacrifice is reaping huge rewards. "The city is hungry and thirsty," said Tuce as he talked about the people's need for Christ. Thousands listen daily, and Tuce is seen by many as the "shepherd of the city."

CALL TO ACTION

Step out in faith.



How can you make a difference for God in your city?

JESUS ACCEPTED PERSECUTION

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. —Matthew 5:11

Justice is a popular idea that is ringing throughout our world today. We cry for justice as genocide rages and as governments punish their citizens. From our perspective in the trenches of living the Christian life, we expect that Jesus will reward our service with protection against the evil forces of the world.

The challenge is that Jesus' voice blessed the persecuted without promising any relief in this life. In fact, far from relief, He made persecution seem like a normal part of what it would take to follow Him.

That is a scary thought for us—those who have become accustomed to a relatively pain-free lifestyle. As we seek to reach out and be the Voice and Hands of Jesus, we hope that God will give us opportunities without having to suffer to see them completed.

The reality is that as we reach out we will be insulted, disgraced, despised and hurt.



A RISKY FLIGHT

The broadcast training course was about to begin in the classroom in a neutral European country, but some of the Central Asian students hadn't arrived. After checking back through their flight routes, the hosts found that the students had boarded the plane in their Muslim country bound for another Muslim country before going to Europe for the training. On that day in history, more than 10 young men vanished without a trace.

It's been more than a year since that horrifying day, and the men have never been spotted in other countries or by their families. There is no record that they are alive and no confirmation that they are dead. They have simply vanished.

Teaming up with other broadcasters, HCJB Global provides Christian radio programming in key languages. HCJB Global partners with Christian writers, producers and voices of people living in their own countries to better prepare material that relates to the listeners in real-life situations. These people risk their lives to bring the gospel to their countrymen.

CALL TO ACTION

Be willing to take risks for God.



How would you respond if you were threatened because you are a Christian?

JESUS LOVED DIFFICULT PEOPLE

*But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.
—Matthew 5:44*

It's easy to help those who want to be helped. But each of us has experienced the challenges of trying to help someone who is not interested in what we have to offer. Sometimes it's a relative, other times it's someone who we are trying to reach out to in our neighborhood.

Jesus knew that as we step out and take risks, we will be confronted with difficult people. But in His wisdom, He did not let us off the hook. This verse challenges the common thinking by asking us to love those who do not love us back.

So many times as we serve, we sidestep the difficult people. We hit the first layer of resistance and we back away, moving on to someone easier. But under the hard surface facades, there are hurting people who desperately need Jesus. Will you take the time and risk being hurt so that you can minister to the difficult cases?



ENGLISH WORDS OF HOPE

What if simple English words could be part of bringing someone to Christ? For Augusto that's exactly what happened!

Augusto is one of the many who listen to the specially designed radio programs and then come to learn English in our Spotlight Listeners' clubs.

Augusto came to the meetings in Quito, Ecuador with a hardened heart to the promises of religion. But he left with a broken heart surrendered to Christ. The Spotlight Listener clubs, many of which are held in local churches, are powerful vehicles to engage those who want to learn English with the gospel in a practical and simple way.

There are countless stories like Augusto's in Latin America, but the need to learn English goes way beyond that continent. HCJB Global missionaries are now working to identify how the Spotlight radio programs and clubs might be used as an evangelism tool in the Asia Pacific Region in places such as India and Cambodia, where the shows are already on the air and listener clubs are forming.



CALL TO ACTION

Leverage your words for good.



What do you have that a searching soul is looking for?

DAY 15

JESUS WAS CONFIDENT IN HIS TREASURE

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. —Matthew 6:21

We all work for rewards. A hard day's work is rewarded with some time in front of the television in the evening. A long work project is rewarded with a cold drink or a snack. Rewards are interesting things. After a while, we feel that we deserve them. In fact, we decide what we will do based on the reward that is offered at the end.

Jesus did the same thing. The difference is that His reward is eternal. He knew that the work of His hands today would fulfill the purposes for which He was sent to earth. And He knew that these purposes would produce eternal rewards that could not be measured in earthly terms.

When we serve, it's hard to keep that eternal perspective. We are knee-deep in the daily activities that our outreach requires. In this very physical environment, we can't help but think of our rewards in earthly terms.

Our treasure is a result of our willingness to complete the things that Jesus has put in front of us to do. That means that when we clean out that church basement, help with the puppets at vacation Bible school, paint a house or design the church bulletin, we have the opportunity to receive eternal rewards because of our faithfulness. But our heart must be focused there.



MORE THAN A CARPENTER

Doug was used to working with a hammer and nails. But when this carpenter by trade went to Fiji on a mission trip, he became an overnight radio man!

Doug's plans were to go for three months to help start Fiji's first Christian radio station. But when the man he was assisting decided to leave, Doug realized God had other plans.

The HCJB Global Technology Center in Elkhart, Ind., partnered with Doug and provided radio equipment and technical expertise. Now many years later, Doug is still in Fiji overseeing two Christian radio networks. He is also training others along the way.



CALL TO ACTION

Be willing and available to God.



Are you willing to invest in Kingdom work for the long haul?



JESUS COUNTED THE COST

*But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."
—Matthew 8:22*

It's so easy to get into something without understanding the full implications. We do it all the time. Someone asks, "Can you help?" and we quickly say "Yes." But only hours into the project we realize that this effort will take much more energy and time than we are able to give it.

This can happen for many reasons. Sometimes we're duped into thinking that it is easier than it really is; other times we simply don't ask the right questions; and still other times we are overly optimistic about our ability to commit. No matter what the reason, we find ourselves in a position of going back on our word and leaving a ministry task unfinished.

Jesus was always clear about the cost. He turned away countless people from service by making the cost of following Him blatantly clear. He didn't do this because He was mean or unwilling to help people grow into their service. Instead, He wanted people to consider the cost of their service.

Do we do the same in our outreach efforts? So many times we are so desperate for new volunteers that we try to market the opportunity and make it as palatable as possible. Are we doing these new servants any favors? Are we helping them to count the cost in their service?

STEPS OF SERVICE

Dr. Juan Carlos Panchi is an Ecuadorian doctor in his final year of preparing to be a missionary doctor. He is one of the five family medicine residents preparing for missions in HCJB Global Hands' hospital in Quito, Ecuador. Like many evangelical Christians in Quito, Panchi grew up in a marginally religious home. He came to Christ at age 20 during his medical studies. He was particularly interested in the work of Roman Catholic missionaries, but wanted to apply his own faith to such efforts.

Panchi then began his training as a family doctor at Hospital Vozandes-Quito with missions in mind. He has grown both professionally and spiritually the past three years and plans to join an HCJB Global Hands medical team at the remote Pioneer Christian Hospital in the Republic of Congo. On his return, he will work for two years at Hospital Vozandes-Shell on the edge of the Amazon jungle, refining his surgical and obstetrical skills. The next step will be to follow God's call to full-time missions.

Though he feels God may be calling him to Africa, Panchi will continue to follow God's directions and trust the Lord to lead him step by step.



CALL TO ACTION

Be ready to serve Jesus no matter what the path looks like.



Are you willing to follow God even though the road may be long?

JESUS PRAYED FOR UNITY

That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.
—John 17:21

For all the teamwork talks and the countless books on the subject, the act of working together is still a great challenge. There are many reasons for this, but the bottom line is that unity requires a bold commitment to connecting distinct people in real time.

Jesus prayed that your outreach team would have unity. That is a pretty amazing statement. The Savior took time to pray for unity in your outreach effort before He went to the cross to give you eternal life. When we think of it that way, the squabbles of yesterday seem very petty.

So as we look forward and ask for unity, Jesus gives us a big reason to seek it. He says that in our unity people will see Him and God will be glorified. It's amazing that a simple act of unity in our outreach might end up having more impact on those we are serving than the service itself.

One of the keys to unity is asking for it together. It is incredible to see the accountability to preserve unity when you have prayed for it together and committed to it as a group. It isn't hard to pray for unity, but it's easy to forget.



MOBILIZING HEARTS

WMIT, Blue Ridge Broadcasting (106.9 the Light), which has a potential listening audience of 5 million, is supporting HCJB Global's media ministries in the Arab world.

"We give 10 percent of what we receive during our annual pledge drive," Jim Kirkland, general manager said. "When listeners hear how people's lives are impacted by God's use of the station, people's hearts are touched. They love to give where God is at work."

"Our listeners value the fact that we invest a portion given to us back into life-impacting ministry—to pay forward the great blessing God has bestowed on us. Presenting the gospel to Arabic speakers is something our listeners relish being a part of."

WMIT raised funds to build the HCJB Global's first studio in the region, now used to record programs in Arabic and other languages.

As a result of this partnership thousands—perhaps millions—have the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

CALL TO ACTION

Develop a spirit of generosity.



What can you do to help others share the good news in hard to reach areas?

JESUS DEMONSTRATED AUTHENTICITY

The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. —John 10:2

Authentic experiences ring true. When we hear our child call our name or when we see a crowd cheer for a sports team, we know that these experiences are heartfelt. We also know when something is inauthentic. We can sense when someone is trying to sell us something or when someone is not being honest with us.

Jesus used the example of a shepherd coming through the gate to describe the authentic relationship He wanted with everyone He met. He cast himself as the shepherd who truly cared about each person and wanted them to experience His love and salvation. When people heard this, they knew He was the “real thing.” People trusted Him and gravitated to Him because of this authenticity.

When we step out to help, are we authentic in our service? Whether you are helping in the church nursery, volunteering at a rescue mission or baking cookies for your neighbor, Jesus expects us to serve out of love and compassion. So as you walk out the door for your act of service, ask yourself why you’re involved. If the answer is love, then the result will be an authentic witness that represents Jesus well.



STATION HELPS HOMELESS

Waymon has cerebral palsy. His wife had just left him, taking their daughter with her. He was homeless and without a job. Somehow the Lord led him to Christian radio station KBNJ in Corpus Christi, Texas. This is a station in the World Radio Network, a cooperating ministry of HCJB Global along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Waymon poured out his story to Dave at KBNJ and admitted that, though he was a Christian, he hadn’t been walking with the Lord. As Dave talked and prayed with him, the Lord answered with a plan. The Lord had provided KBNJ with a building that had a small apartment upstairs.

For three months Waymon stayed in the apartment and worked at the station. His faith in Christ grew. Finally, his family came and took him back home.

His family, friends and acquaintances were amazed at the change in him, and whenever he gives his testimony to God’s grace, he always tells them about KBNJ, the Christian radio station that helped him in his time of need.

CALL TO ACTION

Be ready to share what God provides.



What steps can you take to help someone in need in your community?

JESUS MADE PRIORITIES

You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.
—John 12:8

We all know what happens when we have 30 tasks to accomplish—none of them get done! That is where priorities come into place. There is much written about this topic and how to execute it well, but in this simple verse above we see Jesus orienting His disciples based on priorities.

Jesus knew that His time was short, and He knew that those last moments were critical to the development of these disciples. He also was orienting them to His place in the kingdom. Jesus was not putting down the poor or asking the disciples not to care for them. But He was asking them to prioritize based on an eternal perspective.

So many times we focus our voice and our hands on earthly priorities. We see the world through our eyes, and we act accordingly. Jesus is calling us to see the world through His eyes and then set our outreach priorities based on that line of sight. In God's priorities, talking with a friend could be more significant than an event that reaches 100 people. You won't know until you filter your activity through His grid.



MAKING HIS CASE

Silas grew up in Central Asia. He says he grew up “in his head an atheist and in his heart a Muslim.” At age 20, someone shared the true story of Jesus with Silas. He had never heard it before, and was struck by the loving character of Jesus.

One day he couldn't resist the love of Jesus any longer and committed his life to Christ as part of the first group of Christians from his ethnic background.

Through a miracle, Silas was accepted into law school. He was ecstatic about his newfound faith and it didn't take long for his fellow students to hear about Jesus. Soon his friends began coming Christ, and together they traveled sharing the gospel.

After Silas became a lawyer, the government realized that people in his ethnic group were becoming Christians, and they started a wave of persecution against Christians. Silas and several of his friends were tortured and beaten for their faith.

Silas and his family escaped his country and came to the U.S. God has continued His amazing work in their lives. Now Silas is making radio programs for his own people.

CALL TO ACTION

Be ready for difficult times and trust in the Lord.



What is God calling you to do so that others can hear about Jesus?



JESUS HONORED SACRIFICE

USED BY GOD

*"I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others."
—Luke 21:3*

Sacrifice is a difficult word for most of us to really understand. In our culture of plenty, we have been able to do it all. We have given to charity and we have purchased that new car. We have given time to volunteer and we have gone to the movies. We have helped a neighbor and watched the football game.

Jesus showed His eternal value system when He lifted up the widow and her small gift. He knew that the others giving were in a position where it cost them little. So when He saw someone give sacrificially, He honored it. Eternally, Jesus was trying to show His disciples and those present that the offering is valued based on the loyalties it represents.

When we give a half-hour to volunteer and rush home to watch the football game, we have revealed our loyalties. That gift of service was cheap because it did not require us to give up anything. But if we give up watching our favorite show because a friend needs to talk, then we have sacrificed something and Jesus validates our service as an act of worship.



Etienne grew up in the predominately Muslim country of Burkina Faso, West Africa. Through the faithful testimony of a high school classmate, Etienne turned away from Islam and received Jesus Christ.

Now he's the radio technician for seven Christian radio stations in Burkina Faso. These stations were the result of a cooperative effort of HCJB Global and other ministries and local churches.

What's more exciting, these stations are beaming the gospel in more than 20 languages. Donors in Burkina Faso fund the daily radio operations even though they live on very little!

Etienne has sacrificed his own pay several times to keep one of these stations on the air.



CALL TO ACTION

Sacrifice your needs for God's glory.



How has God challenged you to sacrifice for your faith?

JESUS ASKED PEOPLE TO TRUST HIM

*If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" tell him, "The Lord needs it."
—Luke 19:31*

It's easy to have a scarcity mentality. When we look at limited resources and so many needs, it's hard to see it from an eternal perspective. Where we see scarcity, Jesus sees the resources necessary for His will to be accomplished.

In this verse, Jesus is giving instructions to the disciples on how to find the mule that would carry Him into Jerusalem for the Passover. In Jesus' ministry, the resources followed the ministry not the other way around. So He asked His disciples to have faith.

Imagine what it would have been like for these God-fearing disciples to go into town and take a donkey that didn't belong to them. But their obedience showed that they trusted the Savior to provide the resources for the ministry.

When Jesus calls us to serve, we need to be willing to trust Him for the resources. If we require all the elements to be in place before we obey, we will say no to many opportunities that Jesus wants us to pursue. If we choose to step out in faith, we may look foolish and risky, but Jesus will be glorified as He accomplishes things through us with His resources.



GOD'S VISION REALIZED

Pastor David had a vision to see a Christian radio station in Indonesia—especially for youth. The vision was born when he attended a media workshop hosted by HCJB Global Voice. "But how would this happen?" he thought.

David was already preaching in seven churches, nurturing 12 orphans and mentoring young pastors. Then things took a turn for the worse. David began to suffer from health problems, but God was in control. Pastors who had been mentored by David stepped in to relieve David's preaching responsibilities, giving him time to allow the medications to help him.

The station launched recently, blessed by the attendance of David's family and the 21 orphans now at his house. After the dedication, the orphans were interviewed on air, initiating this youth ministry.



CALL TO ACTION

Hold on to the vision God gives you.



Have you ever had an idea that helped change someone's life?



JESUS ENGAGED THE WHOLE PERSON

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.
—Matthew 4:23

When we reach out to people in need, it's easy to see them in a one-dimensional way. We might see their pain because of a relationship or we might see their need for food. When we pay attention to these single sources of need, sometimes we miss out on a much larger reality for people that we so desperately want to help.

Jesus saw people in a complete way. He saw their physical pain, their spiritual blindness and their emotional hurts. All of these together helped Jesus define how He would reach out to those around Him.

The most incredible thing about Jesus' ministry was that He knew which one was at the core of a person's need. In some cases, He focused on the spiritual. In other cases He honed in on a physical need. In still others He spoke to an emotional need.

Have you learned to look at people in a more complete way? Do you look at them and see their pain and struggles in the many areas of life? How are you tailoring your outreach to connect completely with those you seek to serve?



VOICE AND HANDS OF JESUS

When extensive flooding left thousands homeless in Ecuador's heavily populated coastal plain, many individuals and organizations joined together for the relief efforts.

HCJB Global's radio staff responded by calling those listening to donate food. As the food came in, local churches joined in with HCJB Global's community development and healthcare ministries to reach out to those who were affected.

Within two months six HCJB Global medical teams helped more than 5,000 of the most affected individuals in the flood zone. Team members presented the gospel to thousands who would not otherwise hear, and hundreds responded by giving their lives to Christ. By first responding with their hands, they opened the door to present the gospel with their voice.



CALL TO ACTION

Reach out to the whole person



What is the connection between your voice and your hands?



JESUS ENCOURAGED COMMITMENT

*Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter."
—Mark 7:29*

One of the signs that we really want something is our persistence and focus on the goal. We do everything we can to convince those in authority that we are deserving and ready to accept the reward. Some people work tirelessly for their college diploma. Others work for a promotion or for the down payment on a home.

In this passage, a Gentile woman pushed Jesus hard for something she desperately wanted—the healing of her daughter. She dared to talk back to Jesus and challenge His words. But amazingly Jesus did not react in anger or frustration. Instead, He gave her what she wanted. In her, He saw someone who believed enough in His power to persist.

As we live a life of service, there are many moments of need. But how many times do we strive for a way forward with conviction and passion? More often than not, we hit a wall and then simply shrug our shoulders and try something else. What would happen if we persisted and asked Jesus to give us a true breakthrough?



LIKE MOTHER LIKE DAUGHTER

This is one woman who let nothing stop her in doing what God called her to do.

Elena lives in a predominately non-Christian area and is married to a nonbeliever. But she had a passion to start a radio ministry in her Russian city of Nalchik. Elena attended an HCJB Global training course in Moscow. When she returned home, her husband was against her involvement.

Elena was very disappointed, but she still believed that God could work through her. Even though she was not able to do the work, she passed her vision on to her daughter, Rumeza, who became interested in having a career in Christian radio. She then began training at the local studio HCJB Global set up in Nalchik.



CALL TO ACTION

Step out in faith. Stay the course.



Do you believe God will finish what He has started in you?

DAY 24



JESUS CHAMPIONED THE POOR

*And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.
—Matthew 10:42*

There is so much need around us that it is easy to get hardened to it. As the misfortunes of others pile up in our minds, we feel forced to tune them out in order to make it through the day. And the result is that we help no one. In our efforts to manage the floodgates of suffering we tend to close them completely.

Imagine the suffering that Jesus saw on a daily basis. Once He was known as the healer, He was surrounded with sickness, suffering and death. Each day He had to get up knowing that He would experience great suffering. It is also amazing how Jesus managed Himself in this environment. He did not always heal. But many times He had compassion on people even when there were pressing things that He needed to do.

Think about the last time that you closed the gates to manage the suffering around you. If we are to take the words of Jesus seriously in the passage above, we know that we cannot afford to avoid the suffering in this world. We have to engage those who are hurting. The key is to be walking with Jesus so that you will know when He wants to use your voice and hands to stop and engage.



ROWING FOR WATER

Imagine rowing a small boat the length of Lake Michigan. Mike fought the waves, wind and weather for 17 days!

Each year for the past several years, Mike has taken on a creative challenge to raise funds for community water systems in Ecuador. In previous years he biked across the U.S. and climbed Mount Rainier in Washington.

The summer of 2006, he rowed from Chicago to the Mackinaw Bridge, a distance of 300 miles. Mike estimates that the effort raised close to \$15,000 for community water projects in Ecuador. Mike has traveled to Ecuador nine times to check on projects and encourage HCJB Global's staff working on water projects in the country.



CALL TO ACTION

Think creatively for Christ!



What can you share to help those in need?



JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

THE VOICE OF TRUTH

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." —John 6:35

Every morning when we wake up, we have the opportunity to be satisfied by the Bread of Life. What an amazing joy to know the Savior of the world and to serve Him each and every day. It's even more amazing to see someone experience that joy for the very first time. They know what it was like to be hungry and searching, and then they get an opportunity see life in a whole new way.

In a commanding voice, Jesus declared that He is the sustenance and strength that we need to live a fulfilled life. He invited all those who would recognize real sustenance to come to Him and be filled. Amazingly He did not disappoint those who took Him up on that offer.

As we reflect on this truth, it's easy to mentally nod. The challenge becomes how we take this truth in and live it in a very real way. As we serve others, do we desire for them to be filled by the Bread of Life? Do we challenge them to seek that in their lives proactively?

When we are in the middle of serving, we often forget to share this simple message. It's easy for people to begin depending on us instead of on the Savior. Our challenge is to continually point them to God as we serve sacrificially. Only then will they be filled and their lives transformed.

Ilyal was 8 years old when his parents bought a battery-operated shortwave radio. One day he tuned in to Golos And—the Voice of the Andes—and heard about God on a Russian program broadcast from Radio Station HCJB in Ecuador.

What he heard filled him with joy. When he told his teacher about Jesus, he was forced to kneel in the corner while the other kids screamed at him. No one in his Eastern European village believed in God.

But he kept listening to the message that gave him hope, and eventually his whole family accepted Christ and began telling others in their village about Jesus. A church began and grew. Ilyal later married and had three children. Today they are all active in ministry.



CALL TO ACTION

Keep listening to the truth.



Is your heart filled with hope that Jesus can use you to touch others?



JESUS TRANSFORMED PEOPLE

Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have. —Luke 24:39

Think back to an experience that changed your life. No doubt you can think of several moments that have defined your character, your career and your family. Experiences are key to service. They provide the transformational moments that cause us to make big decisions, take risks and focus our attention.

The moment when the disciples saw the wounds of Jesus after the resurrection had to be a powerful life-changing one for them. Imagine what it would be like to go from despair to celebration in a matter of minutes. They had given up on the cause that had taken them far from family and home only to realize that all was not lost—Jesus was with them!

You can be sure that this incredible experience gave the disciples strength and courage as they faced the many challenges of sharing the gospel throughout Jerusalem, Judea and the ends of the earth.

How have the experiences in your life transformed you and focused you on God's will and direction? When God allows a dramatic experience to happen in your life, He is doing it for a reason, and He is striving to get your attention. If you're open to His leading in those moments, Jesus can mobilize your voice and your hands in a powerful way.



EARTH-SHAKING EXPERIENCE

Sergio was a team member who helped doctors from Hospital Vozandes-Quito following the Aug. 15, 2007, earthquake in Peru. The earthquake wrought devastation in the city of Pisco and other neighboring cities. Houses were not the only things that tumbled down; so did the very soul and the hopes of many who lost everything—their children or parents, other possessions, their work, their future.

In 1972 Sergio was a victim of an earthquake in his hometown of Chincha Alta, near Pisco. His house collapsed—a horrible, unforgettable experience. The trauma prepared him to reach out many years later to new earthquake victims, including his own mother and sister.

Arranging team contacts and providing local insights, Sergio's prayer ministry was a critical component of the team's work. In fact, one family placed faith in Christ, then visited the team nightly to be comforted and benefitted by prayer; the family was afraid to go to sleep without prayer.

Team members heard from the quake victims, "We thought the world had come to an end." After several days, the medical team had treated 1,600 patients, with at least 25 finding Jesus Christ as Savior.



CALL TO ACTION

Use your experiences as tools to reach out.



How can you use what God has done for you to help comfort others?



JESUS SAW POTENTIAL

*Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.
—Matthew 9:38*

When a job that is facing us is too big for any one person, we have a choice to make. Either we will jump in and try to do it ourselves or we will focus our efforts on getting others to join us. For most of us, we feel more comfortable doing it ourselves. Not only do we get a great sense of accomplishment, but we have control over our outreach.

Jesus spent time directly in ministry for sure, but a huge amount of His time was spent seeking out, investing in and training new workers that would be the foundation of the Church. In human terms, this effort looked silly and insignificant, but as we look back over the past two millennia we see the true power of sending others out. Jesus prepared His disciples and a larger group that would form the nucleus of the Church through very regular activities. But it's clear that He was always acting with this goal in mind.

As you serve in your community, do you have that same perspective? Are you seeking opportunities to raise others up for service? Are you looking for those that might be powerful witnesses in your community and engaging them? What would your outreach look like if this was a main objective every day?

You might be a mentor to someone. Maybe you would seek to serve on a team rather than by yourself. Who knows, the key is to make investing in others part of your life of service.

PRAYER INFLUENCES LEADER

HCJB Global routinely brings together partners for radio training in Singapore. On one occasion 11 of its partner leaders met in Singapore for a week of practical radio management training and spiritual teaching.

These are the men and women who run the radio stations that HCJB Global has set up or works with in their communities—in India, Nepal, Indonesia, Samoa, Fiji, Papua New Guinea.

During this week, one partner shared how God got the attention of his country's prime minister through the radio when his driver (who is a Christian) tuned the limo's radio to the local Christian station while transporting the prime minister. The program airing happened to be a half-hour of prayer for the nation and its leaders.

When the prime minister heard this program, he was deeply moved, and in disbelief that there were people who cared enough to pray for his government. The driver was able to talk with the prime minister about God and the station they were listening to.



CALL TO ACTION

Always be alert to opportunities to share about Christ.



What opportunities do you have to share your faith with influential people?



JESUS ASKED FOR COURAGE

*But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."
—Matthew 14:27*

Life's circumstances can be very intimidating. We are surrounded by those who would do us harm—computer hackers, dishonest business people and even neighbors who take advantage of us. In an environment like this, the easiest thing would be to hide behind the walls of our homes and protect ourselves from the dangers that lurk outside.

But Jesus called His disciples to something different. He asked them to have courage and strength in the face of some very scary situations. When Jesus walked on the water toward them as they sailed across the sea, He asked them to believe that this ghost-like figure was really their Savior. He asked them to go out in pairs and preach in His name. And finally, He asked them to go to Jerusalem with Him for His final days.

The opportunities that God wants to bring your way will take courage. He is preparing some amazing chances for you to be His voice and hands. But each one will take courage—a courage that you will not be able to muster without Jesus' strength. When faced with one of these terrifying opportunities, we have to decide whether to trust Jesus and accept His strength. Once we have done that, then courage quickly follows.



GOD'S BATTLE PLAN

Long after the Iron Curtain came down, the Ukrainian people are still held captive by their past. Many were left without a safety net as the communist programs faded away.

Sergey, a chaplain at Christian Hope Church in Kiev, is one of many stepping up to make a difference. The church is partnering with HCJB Global to impact Ukraine in organized and strategic ways using media and healthcare.

This is in part related to Sergey's 35 years as a Russian Army officer. On the wall in the central Kiev church there is a map with diagrams of villages—a "battle plan" for spreading the gospel for a group of army officers turned Kingdom soldiers.



CALL TO ACTION

Engage your past for God's purposes.



What is your "battle plan" for spreading the gospel in your community?



JESUS PROMISED HIS PRESENCE

*For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.
—Matthew 18:20.*

Each one of us has experienced a ministry connection where the presence of Jesus was obvious. As we sat in a hospital room and talked with a child or engaged a homeless person on a park bench, we felt Jesus with us as we talked. Those times are very special, and they give us the strength to speak into a life.

When Jesus promised to be with us, He knew that we would have many discouraging or challenging times that would require strength much greater than what we could muster on our own. In His wisdom He expected these times and promised His presence.

Do you expect the presence of Jesus when you are serving Him? Sometimes we go out in our own strength and don't expect Jesus to meet us there. But in those moments when we least expect Him, He appears and blesses us with His strength and power. Next time you step out in service, pray for His presence proactively and expect Jesus to show up.



BRINGING RAYS OF JOY

While most members of an emergency medical relief team dealt with injured and sick people amid a flood in a flood-ravaged area of southern Mexico, Dorothy Nelson, an HCJB Global missionary, brought a ray of joy and hope to children and their mothers.

Dorothy connected with a young woman named Cruz as she was interacting with the children. The next afternoon Dorothy approached Cruz as she sang in a clear, beautiful voice while raking leaves near deep water puddles. She hugged Dorothy, and they sat down for what became a long talk. A few children gathered, quietly watching her tears fall. They touched Cruz gently as if helping her to cry and grieve. She related how her sister had died just a few days earlier in the flood.

Dorothy watched her face as she sang in a high voice with the children, then in a low, soft voice as she sang alone to Dorothy. They sang songs of joy to each other, holding hands and lifting up the pain to the Heavenly Healer. "Break forth into joy O my soul, in the presence of the Lord there is joy," they sang. As they praised God, both women knew God had heard their hearts.



CALL TO ACTION

Reach out and listen to someone today.



What can you do to help someone in pain today?

DAY 30

JESUS DID THE IMPOSSIBLE

Jesus replied, "What is impossible with men is possible with God." —Luke 18:27

Many of our greatest heroes took on an impossible task and came out with an exciting new solution. On our good days we idealize people like this and long to have the vision necessary to break down walls and challenge the impossible. But on those other days, we look at the challenges in our life and sigh deeply, not knowing what to do or where to turn.

Jesus saw His disciples and others hit this wall and struggle. But Jesus was not bound by the limitations that we face daily. He looked at the challenges that the disciples saw and applied His eternal perspective to them. In that eternal perspective, nothing is impossible for the One who defined eternity.

On your good days when every challenge has a response, Jesus is the One who is giving you the strength and innovation to meet the opportunities head on. On your bad days when every detail of your outreach seems tied down and unsuccessful, Jesus is the One with the answers and inspiration to give new life to your service.



CHRIST IN a CHATROOM

A North African family began searching Arabic chatrooms on the Internet to see what discussions were available. They found the outreach chatroom run by HCJB Global.

Each week there is a theme such as, "The Unchanged Truth of the Bible" or "Why We Can Believe Jesus Is God's Son." The follow-up ministry involves answering hundreds of e-mail enquiries every month.

One week this family heard a debate on Islam. The parents didn't like some comments made by former Muslims and checked their own religious books. Finding that the Muslim-background believers had given a true representation of the Islamic texts, they continued listening each week to learn more about Islam and about Christianity.

Their hearts were challenged and changed by what they read and heard. When they finally took a turn on the microphone, the wife testified that she and her whole family—including her husband and two children—had accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior!

CALL TO ACTION

Never limit what God can do.



What are you believing God for?

We pray that these stories have encouraged your heart. But where do you go from here? Well, HCJB Global has some easy next steps as you prepare to be the Voice and Hands of Jesus.

STEP 1

Be praying for your household. Your ministry begins at home and extends out from there. In order to help you do this, HCJB Global has launched an online prayer e-card that you can use to send a prayer to the members of your household. This is a great way to engage them with what God has put on your heart.

Visit www.hcjbglobal.org/myprayer

Use the simple steps below as you pray:

Pray the **ACTS** of prayer:

A – Adoration – Spend time praising God for who He is.

C – Confession – Spend time confession any sin.

T – Thanksgiving – Spend time thanking God for all He has done.

S – Supplication – This is where you ask for petitions for yourself and others.

STEP 2

Step out in faith with your household, your friends, your small group or your church and do a Voice and Hands Project in your community. As you integrate the declaration of the gospel with the demonstration of the gospel, you will see exciting things happen. HCJB Global is sponsoring a Voice and Hands Contest to encourage these projects. If you read this in April and May 2009, you can go to www.hcjbglobal.org/contest and share your Voice and Hands project.

STEP 3

Now that you have taken the time to reach out together, consider partnering with HCJB Global to reach the unreached households of the Arab world. Every dollar you give sponsors a household to hear Jesus' words of hope. Visit www.onehousehold.com to sponsor households today.

HOW WILL YOU BE THE VOICE AND HANDS OF JESUS?



Things I am thanking God for:



People I am praying for:



People I can join with to help meet the needs in my household and community:



Needs in my household and community that God has brought to my attention:



Ideas of ways these needs might be met:

OUR MISSION

HCJB Global exists to empower dynamic media and healthcare ministries that declare and demonstrate Jesus Christ.

ABOUT HCJB GLOBAL

Since 1931 HCJB Global's passion has been to be the Voice and Hands of Jesus. Using media and healthcare, HCJB Global has ministries in more than 100 countries. Together with local partners, the gospel is aired in more than 120 languages and dialects. Thousands of listeners and healthcare patients are meeting Jesus. Local believers are being trained as missionaries, pastors, broadcasters and healthcare providers.



For more information about HCJB Global, visit
WWW.HCJBGLOBAL.ORG