

# LIFE ON MISSION

---

## Life On Mission

Matthew 9:35-10:5 // Special Guest: Scott Ridout  
November 11, 2018

**Craig //** Hey, welcome to Mission Hills, so glad you are here with us today. Of course, I'm not actually here today. I was going to say, I wish I was -- but that would not be 100% true because Coletta and I are out of town celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary. And love you guys, but you know, preaching at the church I love, celebrating 25 years with the woman I love? Not much of a contest. I'm looking forward to being with you next week for week three of our global experience, but today, I'm super excited to introduce you to Scott Ridout. Scott is a great man of God, great pastor, great communicator, great leader. Over the last couple of years, he's been a great friend and mentor to me, and so I'm so glad to have him here speaking to the life of our church and into your personal life. Would you welcome Scott Ridout?

**Scott //** Thank you. Hello, Mission Hills, great to be with you this weekend. I'm Scott Ridout. I'm the president of Converge, which is a movement of 1347 churches around the country that help people meet, know and follow Jesus by starting and strengthening churches together worldwide. Mission Hills is one of those 1347. Great to be with you. The last time I spoke to you was a couple of years ago. It was July, and you were thinking about hiring this guy named Craig Smith, and -- I have to tell you -- great job. Great choice. He's a great pastor, has become a very good friend. When I look at pastors of churches there's a few things I look for, and Craig has all of them. He loves God. He holds to God's word, and he loves you.

He loves being your pastor. Anytime we meet, he's so excited about what God is doing here in you and through you. Thank you for being the Church. Well, last week Craig started a brand new series called "Life on Mission." If you didn't get a chance to hear the message last week, it's online. It was a great message in Luke 12. We are talking about how God is an outgoing God. He's an outward facing God. He's an outreaching God, and you and I have been created in His image, so we need to be out going, out facing, outreaching, and when you said yes to Jesus, you said yes to being with Jesus on mission.

The good news about that is John 10:10 Jesus says the thief came to kill, steal, and destroy, but I came that you might have life, and that it might be full, abundant, meaningful, and when you are on mission with God, there is no more exciting place to be than on mission with Him. As we start today, I want to give you a definition of life on mission, so if you are taking notes, write this down. You can talk about it in your groups. Life on mission -- here's how you define it. Living out the priorities of God in the character of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Living out the priorities of God, in the character of Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Living out the priorities of God. There is a prayer called "The Lord's prayer." In the Bible, and it goes like this: Your kingdom come -- does anyone know the rest of it? Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

We are living out God's priorities is what it's praying about, and we do it in the character of Christ. You realize, you can do things that are for God, things He wants you to do, but you can do them with the wrong motivate, so we have to do it with the character of Christ, that love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, self-control that He wants us to have. We do that through the power of the Holy Spirit. When you became a Christian, the Holy Spirit came to live in you, according to scripture. He was a deposit guarantees what is to come. Jesus didn't leave us as orphans. I'm going to send the Spirit to you. He will guide you into truth. He will comfort you in your difficulties. He will convict you of your sin. He will counsel you in the wisdom of the Word. He will make it known to you, and you will be great witnesses. You will have boldness because of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life.

That's the definition of living on mission. I want to distinguish that from the definition of Christian maturity. How many of you want to grow Christ and be mature in Christ? Right? Good. Here's the definition again. Living on mission is living out the priorities of God in the character of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Maturity for the Christian life is this, living out the priorities of God through the character of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Yeah, it's the same thing. When you are living on mission, you are growing in maturity. When you are growing in maturity, you have to be living on mission. You just can't separate the two. You can't be mature without living on mission, so I'm so excited about this series that we are in right now.

What does that look like? What does it mean, the priorities of God? In Matthew 16, Jesus and his disciples were talking. He says this, I will build my Church. Which is a real interesting saying, because back then 2000 years ago, the Church didn't have buildings. They didn't have locations. They didn't have an hour on Sunday. That wasn't the definition of the Church. We have hijacked the definition of the Church these days. The Church isn't a building you sit in. It isn't an hour on Sunday. It isn't a location on the corner. According to Jesus, the Church isn't a building you sit in. It's a movement you choose to be a part of. You can't go to church because the Church is you. Craig said it this way a few

weeks ago, I'm not so concerned that people come to the church. I'm concern that they come to Christ and become the Church.

So what does it mean to be the Church? If you have a Bible, turn to Matthew 9, we are going to walk through this passage about Jesus. I figure if anyone is going to teach us about the Church and what the Church should be and to do, then we should look at what Jesus did and follow him. After all, you and I are being conformed to image according to Romans 8:29. So what did Jesus do that he's asking us to do? In Matthew 9, there are so many great stories in that chapter. There is a paralyzed man at the beginning of the story that's dropped through the roof. He forgives his sin and heals his body. And there's a tax collector named Matthew who actually wrote the book of Matthew who is called into discipleship with Jesus. He has a conversation with religious leaders that are thinking this is the way to God. Jesus says, no, no, no. It's not that way. There is a different way.

Then there's a woman who is touched -- she touches Jesus after many years of bleeding, and her bleeding stops. Then he raises a dead girl. He casts out demons. The mute speak. The deaf hear. Jesus is teaching. He's proclaiming. He's healing. He's doing amazing things, leading up to the passage we are about to look at. Let's look at verse 35, chapter 9 of Matthew. Here's what it says: And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. We are going to see in the next few verses four things that Jesus did, that he wants us to do, four choices that Jesus made that he wants us to make in order to be on mission with him. The first choice he makes is right here in this passage.

It says this, Jesus went. Jesus went. He didn't wait for other people to make the first move. He didn't wait for them to figure it out, to get it right, to have the "Aha" moment. He went to them. He didn't expect them to know. He chose to go tell them. It was go and tell versus come and see. I know there's a whole lot of people here today that would say, I would be glad to invite someone to church if they would come up and ask me. Can I go to church with you? I would say, yes, of course. Or they would say I probably have people in my midst that probably need to know Christ, and if they ever ask me about the Gospel, I would share the Gospel with them. That's the wrong mentality. The mentality is, maybe God has placed you in your family on purpose. Maybe God has placed you in your neighborhood on purpose. Maybe He's placed you in your workplace on purpose. Students, maybe He's placed you in your school on purpose. Maybe He's placed you on that team or in the band on purpose. His purpose.

Instead of waiting for them to figure it out, maybe we are supposed to go to them and help them figure it out. You see, this is what Jesus did. Jesus went. He was an initiator. It says he went through all of the cities and the villages. That word "all" there -- really interesting Greek word. Do you know what it means in English? All. See in Jesus day, everyone mattered to God, so he went through all of the towns and villages. Everyone matters to God; therefore they should matter to us. Your coworkers matter to God. Your neighbors matter to God. Your relatives matter to God. Your friends matter to God. Your classmates and teammates matter to God. Those strangers on the other side of the globe? They matter to God.

He's not leaving anyone out. II Peter 3:9, God doesn't want any to perish but all to come to repentance, but in order for that to happen, we have to go. We have to go and be where they are at. We have to interact with them. It says he went to all of the cities and villages. He was doing three things. He was teaching. He was proclaiming, and he was healing. He was teaching the scripture in the synagogues. He was proclaiming the Good News. Now here's the thing. I know a lot of people that try to share the Gospel, and there doesn't seem to be any good news. It's all bad news. If the Gospel you preach doesn't have good news, it's either incorrect, or it's incomplete, so we have to figure out how to do that. He's healing. I mentioned a whole bunch of ways. He's healing. Not that we can heal the way Jesus heals. Sometimes God does that, but you have to admit, anytime there is a church in a community, there should be a healing presence in that community. Healed relationships. Healed attitudes. Broken addictions, all of those things should be happening.

Healing emotionally, relationally, physically, spiritually should be happening, anywhere there is a church presence. Jesus had that. He went to them. He didn't wait for them. He was an initiator. He was an includer. He was intentional about going. He's asking us to be the same way in whatever scenarios we find ourselves in. What does that look like? In everyday life, what does that look like?

So my family and I lived in Arizona for a long time. We lived there 22 years. We lived in the southeast valley, a place called Gilbert. About five years into our time there, we bought a house. Gilbert, at that point in time, 1988, was the fastest growing city of under 100,000 in America. Three years later, it hit the 100,000 mark and it became the fastest growing city over 100,000 people in America. When I got there in 1993, there were 14,000 people in town. When I left there were 240,000 people in 2014. The neighbor I was in, I was the sixth house to purchase. There were 572 homes. It took three years to fill the neighborhood. Just very, very fast moving. It was a quarter mile from the church, so I thought maybe God has me here on purpose, His purpose. Maybe I'm supposed to reach out to my neighbors, so I'm trying to figure out how to do that.

So the neighborhood's filling up, and we are deciding to -- we get to know each other a little bit. In Arizona -- you may not do this in Colorado, but in Arizona when it's cold out, like in October, when it gets down below 70 -- we would put a fire pit on the driveway and sit around the driveway in our shorts and warm ourselves by the fire. We were doing that one night, and I looked at my neighbors and I said, hey, let's throw a block party. Let's just gather a block party because we don't know each other. They said that's a great idea. Who wants to help me? Well, the guys around the circle, when I talked about them in my church, I would never use their names. I gave them labels. Larry, his name was beer guy.

I just called him beer guy because he always had a beer in his hand. He was always talking about beer. Beer was the love of his life. He had a wife, but beer was the love of his life. He constantly talked about it. The other guy was Rick. I called him gun guy. He was always cleaning his

guns. Not these, but -- think about it, if you are his daughter and a guy wanted to ask you out on a date. The guy is cleaning his gun. What do you want to do with my daughter? Scary. These guys are there. Larry, beer guy says, I'll help you. Great. Let's do that. He's going to help me. We get the permit from the city, and we are going to block off the street. So he's going to help me do that. It's a Friday, it's a Friday night block party, so it's a Friday. I have to admit to you that I was trying really hard to make sure my neighbors didn't know I was a pastor. Because when people find out you are a pastor, everything gets freaky.

They start calling you padre and the father and they start confessing their sin and bowing before you. And airport, that's just really weird, that kind of stuff. Most of them don't do that. Most of them just apologize for the 17 times they swore in the last five minutes. But you know how -- so I'm trying to hide this from my neighbors. It's been nine months, and I have done well. We are setting up for this block party. He's carrying the front of the table. I'm carrying the back of the table. We are just walking along. He said, how did you get off today? I said, I just took the day off. He said, well what do you do? Man. I'm a pastor. He stopped. He dropped the table. He said, what? You're a pastor? I was like, yeah. He says, well no wonder you never take a beer when you offer it. I say, no, I don't take a beer because it's 10:00 in the morning, Larry.

So he grabs the table and he keeps on going, you know. We are doing the block party. We are sitting around the fire pit. It's now down to 65-degrees, vvvh -- you know? And he's sitting there. My wife's with us. He looks at her and he says, hey, Lisa, what would you give me to go to your church? This is beer guy talking. My wife's so smart. She says, Larry, what would it take? What would you like? He thinks about it for a minute. He says, I want a beer helmet. Some of you don't know what that is. It's like a construction helmet. It's got a couple of things on the front where you can put cans of beer on it. It has straws coming out of it. One straw, two beers at once. It's a two fer one. He's like, I want a beer helmet. She says, you got it. He says, I want a Krispy Kreme doughnut, a dozen Krispy Kreme doughnuts. She says, you got it.

I'm thinking, where's that when I'm bargaining? How come I can't get Krispy Kremes, you know? Sure enough we get done with the party. She looks at me and says, I'm not going to get that. You go get the beer helmet. There's no Amazon. You can't just order it online, so I have to go to this place called Spencer's. Does anyone know what I'm talking about? Spencer's, you know? Not exactly the place you want your pastor entering in, you know? I'm stealth sneaking in, hoping no one from the congregation -- finding your pastor with a beer helmet? Weird. So I buy the helmet. We go buy the Krispy Kremes. She goes up to the door. We decide to invite him to our Christmas drama. She goes to the door with the -- she has the helmet on top. We put a little sticker on it just to joke with him. It says "non-alcoholic beverages only," you know? He opens the door and she says, I gotcha. You gotta come now. He started laughing. Yeah, I'm obligated now, aren't I? Yeah, you are obligated now.

He was like, okay, so we invite him to the Christmas drama, and he does, he shows up. A few weeks later, like the first week of December, he shows up. He comes with his wife and his two kids, and he brings gun guy, just in case he has to break out of the place and needs some cover, you know? It gets really weird -- so gun guy's with him, and we do the drama, and it goes really well, and I'm standing up presenting the Gospel at the end. Larry's leaning forward. It looks like he's listening. This is really good. Then I don't see him for a couple of weeks. Have you ever brought someone to church and then you don't see them for a while? What goes on in your head? Like, they must not have liked it. They would have said something. I'm thinking this, but we have another block party coming for Christmas, so I go knock on his door. He's like, hey. I said, hey, you going to help me do the block party? He says, yeah, I am.

I got the boldness to say, I didn't see you after the Christmas thing. You doing all right? He said it was kind of weird, actually? I said what do you mean? He said, well, the story in the drama was this guy who forgot his family at Christmastime. He was focused on his career and family and God were out of the picture. He's saying, the story -- that's my story. That's what I have done with my family. That's what I have done with God. It was kind of convicting. I sort of teared up. I didn't want you to see me crying, so I just left. I said, that's all right. Do you want to come back? He said, I have been to church once this year. I think that's enough for right now. But that weekend we had the block party and in the middle of the block party, now it's down to 63-degrees. Now we really deserve to have a fire pit.

He stands up from the fire pit. He has a beer in his hand because he's beer guy. He has a beer in his hand. He says, hey, I have an announcement to make, everybody. There are like 75 neighbors there. I want everyone to know I went to church a couple of weekends ago. I went to Scott's church. It's the best church in town. I got a non-Christian, holding a beer up in my neighborhood saying, you got to go to this church. I tell that story sometimes in churches, and I have actually had people come up to me and say, I'm not sure that story is really appropriate. You got guns in it. You got beer in it. What would Jesus think? Here's what Jesus would think. If he were in my neighborhood, that's exactly where he would be. That's where he would be. Jesus has a conversation with religious people. They are like, why are you hanging out with sinners? He says this; it's not the healthy that need a physician. It's the sick.

I didn't come to call righteous people or people who think they are righteous. I came to call people who know they are sinners. Jesus went. He didn't make everyone else make the first move. The passage goes on and in verse 36 it says this, when he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus went, and the second choice he made, he felt. I know, I have watched the elections this week. I watched the rhetoric leading up to it. Did anyone talk about a topic that was relevant, or did they just talk about the character of the other guy? Was there anything out there? I mean, you kind of got calloused to that messaging. Then all of the junk that's happening around the world. There's the shooting in Southern California. We have churches there. I was talking to some pastors about it.

Shootings over here. Shootings over there. Everything becomes about who has the bigger number? It's easy to get calloused over the hard things happening. In your neighborhood, families are falling apart and people are having issues, and it just seems like there are lots of people, and the

numbers just keep growing. We have to get to the place as individuals that we remember every number has a name. Every name has a story, and every story matters to God. The stories that are closest to us, we have to engage in the stories. We have to relate to the stories. We have to jump into the relationships. We have to feel what they feel. Jesus looked at the crowds. He entered into the crowds, and it says he had compassion on them because they were harassed. They were harassed. He was looking at what the Romans were doing to these people, and it was really not good. The rich people were doing it to the poor, it was not good.

They were helpless. They couldn't get out of the situation themselves. There was no hope. The economy was bad. Sickness was high. Healthcare wasn't even available. Harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. There was no leadership. There was no one leading the way to hope. No one there. It says his heart broke. It says he had compassion on them. Compassion is actually a Latin word. The word "com" means like. Passion means suffering. It means like suffering. It means joining someone in their suffering. Willing to engage them on an emotional, relational level, to feel their pain, to experience the angst of what they are going through, and walk through that with them. Jesus was constantly entering people's pain. He was constantly showing compassion. In Mark 1, there's this leper that comes up to him and jumps and kneels on his knees and says, if you are willing, Jesus, you can make me clean.

The leper didn't doubt Jesus' ability. He wondered if he was worthy, and it's so interesting because lepers weren't allowed to be touched, but it says Jesus had compassion for him and touched him. This is probably the first time this guy has been touched in a long, long time. He said, I am willing. Be healed. There is the story of Jesus on the way -- in Matthew 20, on the way to the cross. He's walking through Jericho to get to Jerusalem so he can die later on that week. These two blind men are yelling out, Son of David, have mercy on us. Have mercy on us. He calls to them. What do you want? They said we want to be able to see. He has compassion on them. He feels for them. He engages in their pain, even though he has business in another city. He has to go die on the cross for you and for me.

Even the rich young ruler who is so arrogant. He says, Jesus, what do I need to do to inherit eternal life? Jesus listed off a bunch of the commandments. He was like, oh, I have done those things since I was a kid. The pride was in full speed, yet it says Jesus looked at him and loved him. When Jesus had a chance to talk about religious people of his time, he told the story of the Good Samaritan, an oxymoron at this time. The Samaritans were a forgotten people, a hated people. The Jews didn't like them at all, yet in this story, the two religious people were like, I'm too busy to engage this guy who's been beaten and robbed on the road, and they walk away. It's the Samaritan who is truly a neighbor. Jesus is saying listen, there are way too many people not engaging in their neighborliness, and he challenged the religious people.

So many Christians, so many of us, we don't engage in the issues, the ills, the difficulties, the disappointments of people. We have to engage our neighbors. We have to engage our coworkers. We got to engage our friends. We don't run from those things. We have the answer to those things. It's Jesus, and a life with him. People are like, how do I gain a heart? How do I gain a heart for like the people who don't know Jesus? How do I gain a heart for the poor? How do I gain a heart for people overseas? How do I do that? Jesus answers that in Matthew 6:21 where he says this, where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. In other words, wherever you put your treasure, your time, your talent, your touch -- wherever you put that, your heart is going to go that direction. Your heart is a follower. If you put your money in the stocks and the stock market goes down, your heart goes down. The stock market goes up, your heart goes up.

Some of us know what we are talking about here, when you invest in your family, your families doing bad, your heart goes down. Your family's doing well, your heart goes up because where your treasure is, your heart goes also. So the good news about this, if your heart is a follower, if you want to change your heart, you simply move your treasure. You want a heart for people who don't know Jesus, spend time with people who don't know Jesus. Invest in a relationship with people who don't know Jesus, pray for people who don't know Jesus. You want a heart for the poor? Go spend time with the poor. Invest your finances in the poor. Go love on the poor and pray for the poor. You want to care for people who are overseas? Send people overseas. Go overseas. Invest in people overseas. Pray for people overseas. Because where your treasure is, your heart will be also.

If you want to change your heart, you move your treasure. In my family, I have three kids. When they were growing up, I wanted them to have this experience of compassion for people who are less fortunate. We lived in a very white-collar community, very wealthy community. There were issues there, but you couldn't see them on the surface, so we tried to create these teachable moments with our kids. We would take our kids to Nogales, Mexico across the border because it wasn't that far. We would spend time in the hills, in the Barrios where there were homes made out of pallets and tin, where kids -- one kid, my daughter had a friend. She was eight years old. It was her birthday. She was like, what would you like for your birthday? She said, I would like to have a doll. Ashlyn says, what kind of doll do you want? She said, any doll would do. How many do you have? I don't have a doll. My daughter just let that sink in. They loved going there because the houses, they didn't have electricity. They had these tires they would sit on to go to the bathroom. My kids thought that was cool. That's awesome. Let's try that. Never done that before.

But these kids had nothing. The families had nothing, and my kids experienced that. My daughter Ashlyn, when she was 14, I took her to Fiji in the South Pacific because we had a ministry there called "Homes of Hope." It was a ministry rescuing girls. I don't know if you realize this, but in the Fijian culture, a lot of times women don't have honor, so daughters are not as valued as sons, so they are sold into the sex slave trade. I met girls there that were sold for a week of groceries. In order to keep their fathers keep their jobs, they would give their daughters away. It was just -- I wanted my daughter to go in because these girls were 11, 12, 13 and 14 years old, and they all had children, two or three children. These girls were being rescued out of that, and given hope and help and education, and the Gospel and care.

My 14-year-old could come in there and have the unique position of saying, I have an Earthly father that loves me, but more importantly, I have a Heavenly Father that loves me, and you can know Him. She had a great time there. God used her in incredible ways. It came home to me in Gilbert when my oldest son John and I were working at a food pantry. We were taking boxes of food, basically a week's worth of food we would give to families. He was 12 years old, and he's up there doing it. So he puts the box on there. This family of five comes in. He says, this box is for you. It should last you a week. If it doesn't, come back. Just so glad you could be part of this, and may God bless you in your week. He was doing the dialogue. He did great. I'm like, that's great, but I looked at his face and there was something wrong.

I said, buddy, are you okay? He said, yeah. I said what is it? He said, Dad, that family that was just here? The boy in that family, he's in my class, Dad. I didn't realize that there was anyone here that had needs like that. My -- my classmate -- needs help. It broke his heart. I loved that. I loved that, that my son was willing to enter into the pain to have compassion on someone that is in his circle of concern. Will you allow God to break your heart over what breaks His? He went. He felt. The verse goes on in verse 37. Then he said to his disciples, the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to The Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest field. He went. He felt. Third choice -- he prayed. He prayed. He saw what was happening, harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd.

He saw. He was like, God, Father, you have to intervene here. You have to do something here. He makes this really interesting comment. It's this, it's that the harvest is plentiful, but what? But the workers are few. Very interesting thought there. Harvest means, it's ready. It's ready. Several times he says the fields are ripe for harvest or the harvest is plentiful. Listen, nothing wrong with the harvest, in other words, there are people in our neighborhoods, people in our workplaces, people in our classrooms, people who are our friends, people who are in our community, people in our state and our country and our world who are ready to receive Jesus Christ as Savior. Who are ready to acknowledge God as the leader of their lives. The harvest is plentiful. The problem is not with the harvest. The problem is over here that the workers are so few.

That the church has kind of focused itself on other things. Let's take care of us and ours, make sure we are comfortable and enjoying our time. Let's not get messy. The world is messy. Let's just find our us four and no more and just kind of live over here. The harvest is plentiful. The workers are just so few. A friend of mine is a pastor in Minnesota. He says it this way, the demand for people to know Christ is so much greater these days than our capacity to reach them because the Church is not on mission the way it should be to the world. His church is interesting. They are a small struggling church of about 20,000. They might make it. They opened a brand new campus last year and 6,000 people showed up the first weekend. 6,000. They have done a thousand baptisms at that campus in the past year.

Converge, our movement is again 1347 churches. We start, strengthen and send. We start new congregations. We send missionaries. We have 173 missionaries in 37 countries around the world. We have another 40 waiting to be funded right now. And then we do that. We strengthen existing churches to start new churches and to send missionaries because it's all about being on mission for God. Six weeks ago we started a brand new church in my community because we felt there needed to be a Gospel presence there, and 450 people showed up the first weekend. Praise God. It was so exciting to see. People came to Christ that weekend. That was a lot of fun.

Internationally, we are trying to put missionaries in places missionaries have not been. I'm really excited about this. I don't know if you realize it, but most missionary organizations will send missionaries to places where the Gospel has already been named, the Church has already been established, the Bible has already been translated. They send them there, and there is nothing wrong with that, except 90% of missionaries are going to places where it's already named. Only 10% are going to places where the Gospel has not been named. We are trying to do in Converge is reverse that, and send 90% of our missionaries to where the Gospel has not been named.

So recently, two years ago, we sent some missionaries to Togo, Africa. Togo is the birthplace of voodoo. Togo is also the port, the area where the slaves came over from Africa. It's a very dark place. Our missionaries there, we have sent ten of them in two years. They have people coming out of the hills from villages as we are starting new churches and raising up indigenous leadership. They are saying, listen, we don't know. We don't have the hope you guys have down here. We have never heard of this Jesus. Will you come up to our villages and tell us about Jesus, because they have never heard. Our goal is to send 100 missionaries to Indonesia over the next ten years, 50 new missionaries to Thailand over the next few years. Right now, we have a movement of churches in Nepal and Northern India called the "Timothy Initiative."

Our church-planting director for international ministries David Nelms leads that. He's been there for ten years. They have planted 40,000 churches, and seen over a million people come to Christ in ten years. Now a lot of those churches are in places where the Gospel has never been named. That's called a UUPG, unengaged, unreached people group. Unengaged means no one is even looking at them. Unreached means there is no Gospel presence among them, and over the last two years, we have seen in 27 of these groups new churches started. To just give you a perspective of this, you can study the Book of Revelation in an American church. You can talk all about the second coming of church. After 2,000 years, these people have never even heard of the first coming of Christ. There is something wrong about that. You know they are coming to Christ like crazy, even in the midst of great persecution.

In August, in Nepal, it was just outlawed to share your faith. You cannot share your faith without going to jail for five years, no parole. Five years. Our leader there, his name is Shiva. I was talking to Shiva before this law came into play. I said, what are you going to do, man? The church is growing like crazy, but the law is changing. What are you going to do when the law changes? He said, I'll share my faith. I said, yeah, but you will go to jail if you share your faith. He's like, there are people in jail. I mean, Paul wrote some of his letters from jail. It says in Philippians 1 that the whole Praetorian Guard heard about the Gospel because literally they were a captive audience chained to Paul. He couldn't stop talking about

Jesus. They all heard about it. My friend Shiva is the same way. I'll just lead people to Christ in jail. When they get out, they'll be the new church.

I mean, imagine if American Christians thought, you know what? A little bit of suffering, not so bad for the sake of the Gospel, and for the sake of eternity for the people around us. Everyone, your neighbors, your coworkers your neighbors, your relatives, your classmates -- everyone lives forever somewhere. We have the opportunity. Jesus went. He felt. He prayed. Verse 5 of chapter 10 it says these 12 Jesus sent, fourth choice, he sent. He sent. He sent out the 12. He said why don't you pray about it? They were the answer to their own prayer, and we need to be the answer to our own prayer, but there is another level of this. He not just sent them, but then after that in Matthew 28, after Jesus had risen from the dead, he's going to go back up to Heaven. He turns to the 12 and says all authority has been given to me in Heaven and on Earth. You go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you, and I will be with you always to the end of the age.

Listen, guys, I invested in you guys. Now you guys invest in the next generation and let them invest in the next generation. This is all about the Church being the Church making sure the next generation knows Jesus, follows Jesus, lives a life on mission with Jesus. Paul was the next generation, II Timothy 2:2, he's writing to Timothy one of his disciples. He says, hey, these things you heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men who will teach others also. You see we have this idea that the Christian is all about -- it's like a marathon. We just have to make it to the end, and cross the finish line. It's not a marathon, according to scripture. It's a relay race. We have a little bit of time. A little bit of opportunity, but we have to hand the baton off to the next generation of runners so that they will take the Gospel to their generation and to the next generation and to the next generation.

We are here because the last generation was faithful. Now it's our turn. There is nothing like seeing that happen in the life of people. Our movement, we are praying four things for you. Each one reach one, that every one of you would have the privilege of leading someone to Christ in the next few years, a neighbor, co-worker, relative, friend, classmate. Second, each one raise one, that not only would you lead one to Christ, but that you would raise them up in the faith. That you would disciple people. You are like, I can't disciple anyone. No, no. If you came to Christ, you can lead someone to Christ. If you have ever prayed, you can teach someone to pray. If you ever studied the Bible, you can teach someone to study the Bible.

You just have to be one step ahead. You don't have to have it all figured out. You don't have to be a seminary Prof to do this. One step ahead. Follow me as I follow Jesus. I haven't got it all figured out, but I'm on the journey. Will you join me? That's all we have to do for the next generation to hear the Gospel and respond and become disciples and hand it off to the next generation. Each one start one is the third emphasis. We are praying that every church would start new congregations on purpose. When you do it not on purpose, that's called a church split. We don't want that. We want on purpose church planting. Each one send one is every congregation have privileges sending someone across culture across continentally to people who don't look like them, sound like them, speak like them, sing like them, live life like them.

That's what we are praying. Each one reach one, raise one, start one, send one. I want you so badly to be involved in discipleship. Such an amazing, amazing thing. So my wife and I, we were on vacation this summer and we went to Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina. Ever heard of Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina? It's a beautiful area. It was summertime. It was beautiful. We went hiking. I love to hike. My wife doesn't like to hike, but she kind of goes along with me. Not the hiking I do. It took us six hours to go six miles. That's the kind of hiking I do, ropes and rocks and things like that. She was a trooper, so now it's her turn to do what she wants to do and we are driving down to South Carolina. We go through Asheville, North Carolina, beautiful town.

I said, what do you want to do? She said, I want to get something to eat. I said, what do you think, Chili's, Applebee's, whatever? She said no, I want a real restaurant. Sorry, if you work there. She said I want ambiance. Ambiance is just another word for "money," you know, spending extra money. We find this restaurant with flower and lamps and whatever else is ambiance. I'm looking for how big is the steak? So we do. We have lunch. She's like, you know, let's go window-shopping, which is just another word for money, you know? So we are walking around town, and we are looking, and this couple walks past us. They have two kids with them, college-aged kids. We walked past. All of a sudden they turn around and they say, Scott Ridout, is that you? I was like, I think it's me. She said you probably don't remember me, but my name is Maria and all of a sudden, it clicked. She turned to her husband and said, Chris, this is the man who led me to Christ eight years ago, and his wife Lisa actually disciplined me.

She took six months with me and just kind of walked with me through the basics. She turned to her boys and said, you are Christians because of her. You are Christians because they led me to Christ and taught me to walk with Christ, and I led you guys to Christ. She said, my husband Chris is not a Christian yet, but he's going to become a Christian. He's sitting right there, you know? Right there. What a moment. Right? What a moment that the God -- the baton was handed off. She moved to Greensboro, North Carolina. We lived in Orlando. We were both in Phoenix at one point in time, but we were walking with Christ. She's walking with Christ. That's discipleship. Teaching people to feed themselves so they can feed others so they can carry on and live life on mission. Jesus went. He felt. He prayed. He sent. He asked others to join him in the journey.

Here's my challenge -- will you join me in this journey? Will you go? Will you feel? Will you pray? Will you raise up others? This is what it means to live life on mission. Jesus said, that's an abundant, a wonderful life. Will you pray with me? Father in Heaven, thank You for Your grace, kindness and goodness to us in Christ Jesus. You have done so much for us. We couldn't possibly repay it. You don't even ask us to, but what You do ask us to do is carry it on, to pass the baton to the next generation, to live life on mission. Helping people find, know and follow Jesus. Every

part is significant. Every person matters to You. They should matter to us. Help us to go. Help us to feel. Help us to pray. Help us to raise up the next generation that walks with You and help others know You. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen. God bless you.