

one ambition

"It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known..." ROMANS 15:20

JESUS IS WORTHY

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LOOKING BACK

*25 Years of Celebrating God's Faithfulness
to His Global Mission*

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ORDINARY PEOPLE

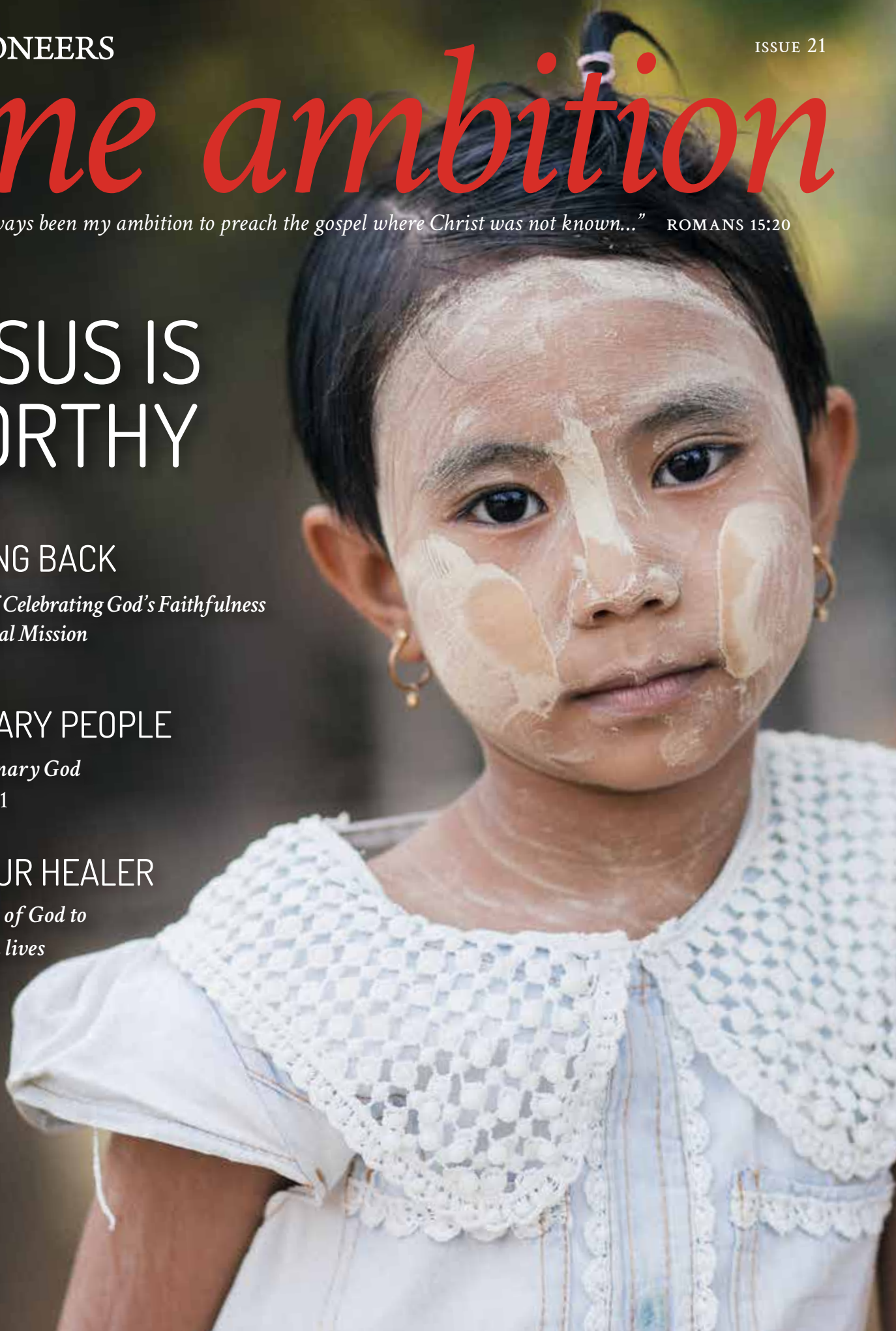
Extraordinary God

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GOD OUR HEALER

*The power of God to
transform lives*

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JESUS IS WORTHY

“For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”

Revelation (5:9)

LOOKING BACK TO 1994

- + Jean Chrétien was Prime Minister.
- + The world population was 5.8 billion.
- + Amazon.com was founded.
- + *The Lion King* was one of the biggest movie hits of the year.
- + Netscape Navigator became the market leader for online browsing.

And God stirred the hearts of a few mission leaders to do something that was not embraced by many organizations involved in world missions.

He called leaders from two different mission organizations and countries to combine their resources for the sake of the gospel among those who had the least opportunity to know Jesus. **Jesus is worthy!**

One mission was from Canada (World Outreach Fellowship, founded by Canadians Charlie and Judy Wight in 1982) and one was from the U.S. (Pioneers, founded by Ted and Peggy Fletcher in 1979). They believed that by joining together they could more effectively proclaim “Jesus is worthy” to the world’s unreached peoples. Looking back, we see God’s plan. Through prayer and a series of meetings, the Lord

brought the two organizations together and Pioneers Canada was formed 25 years ago. At that time, there were approximately 175 missionaries between the two organizations. **But there was a side story developing that only God Himself could have arranged.**

Unbeknownst to the leaders at the time, God was beginning to form an international Pioneers movement that would eventually rise to include over 3,000 people: “From everywhere, to everywhere.” God truly was, and is, a God of the nations. Not just that those nations would receive missionaries, but that they too were designed by Him to participate in His loving, redemptive plan “to the uttermost.” In 1994, Canada was an early adopter of this vision. That same year, a Ghanaian missionary received a vision from the Lord to send Africans to the unreached in West and North Africa. What followed shortly was incredible! Along with Canada, the US, and Africa, God added Singapore, Europe (several countries), Australia, and New Zealand. Jesus is worthy!

I once heard a missionary say, “Missions is a miracle.” And it really is. Missions is God stirring His people to participate in His plan. The Canadian church had been playing her role in this, the greatest of endeavours, long before Pioneers came on the scene. God was, and still is, calling “We the North” to continue with Him and His vision toward the finish line. He was, and still is, moving. Today, Pioneers

International workers serve in 97 countries. Often it is with great sacrifice: facing language barriers and learning culture; unique health issues; family stress; antagonistic governments; intense spiritual warfare. Yet, more Canadians are joining every year. Why? Because Jesus is worthy.

You stand with each one who goes. In fact, there are 286 churches and more than 3,300 individuals who join with us in praying for these workers and providing the finances needed. **With you, we are thrilled to play our part in His mission because truly Jesus is Worthy.**

We are in this for the long haul. Twenty-five years seems like only the beginning. God has been faithful, and we can, with assurance, believe He will be faithful to guide, provide, and demonstrate His loving Shepherd’s heart through the ups and downs of life: yours, ours and all the workers scattered around the globe. We pray that the next twenty-five years will mean more people who can proclaim with us: “Once I was blind but now I see; once I was lonely and lost but now I am found and free.” Jesus is worthy, indeed!

For His Glory alone,

Donnie

Donnie Searce
Executive Director, Pioneers





LOOKING BACK

25 Years of Celebrating God's Faithfulness to His Global Mission

It seems like yesterday when Pioneers Canada was launched in 1994. There was a behind-the-scenes movement of God's Spirit doing the impossible to open the doors for the gospel in place after place, and people group after people group. It has been nearly beyond our understanding what He has accomplished since, including the amalgamation of Arab World Ministries with Pioneers in 2010. More and more workers are being sent from partnering churches to see the gospel take root in some of the most challenging regions of the world. Often, we can't report on what is happening publicly, as the workers and national believers would be put further in harm's way as a result.

Jesus told us, "In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10) By the amazing grace of God, there have been untold numbers of people who have come to faith in Jesus and have been

discipled, and many churches planted among some of the most unreached peoples on earth.

We invite you to celebrate with us the faithfulness of God, the partnership of the church in Canada, the global church, and other missions serving together in God's redemptive mission.

What motivates us? Paul says it best: "For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all..." (2 Cor. 5:14)

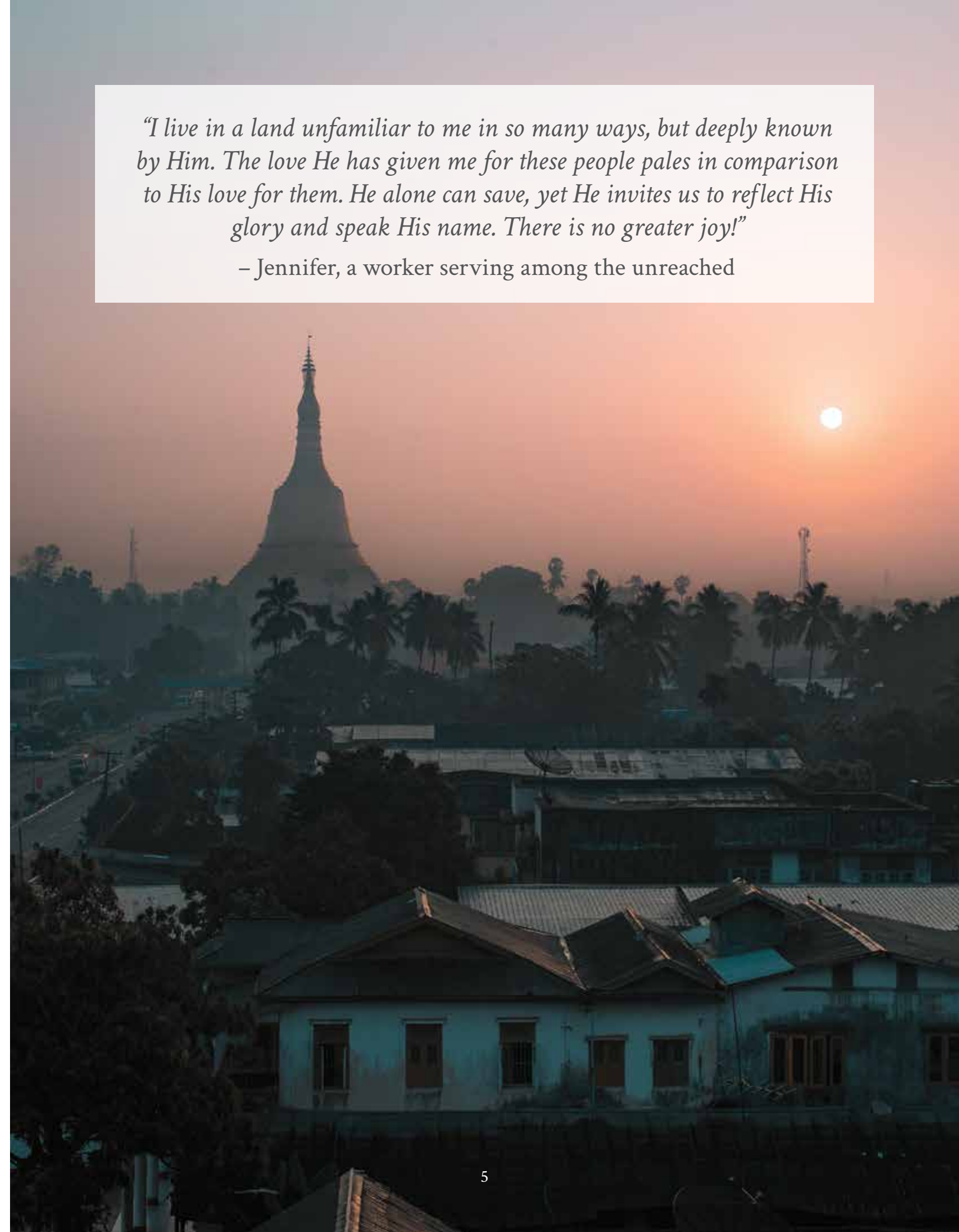
Even as we look back with wonder, we are empowered to look toward the future with faith and expectation. How many more people will have the joy of learning of Christ for the first time in the next 25 years?

Pray for boldness as we move forward on our knees in celebration of what God has done and with hope for what will be done in the power of and for the glory of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Glory to God alone!

*Jesus leaving the 99 to find the one doesn't seem that strategic...
unless you are the one!*

"I live in a land unfamiliar to me in so many ways, but deeply known by Him. The love He has given me for these people pales in comparison to His love for them. He alone can save, yet He invites us to reflect His glory and speak His name. There is no greater joy!"

– Jennifer, a worker serving among the unreached



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Pioneers Canada celebrates God's faithfulness to His loving mission purpose

1979

Ted Fletcher (1931-2003) and his wife Peggy stepped out in faith and founded Pioneers.



1982



Charlie Wight (1942-2004) and Judy Wight (1945-2000) founded World Outreach Fellowship in Ontario, Canada.

1994

- Pioneers Canada was formed out of a merger with World Outreach Fellowship.
- Pioneers Africa was also established as a mobilization base.



1999

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

- Pioneers felt called of God to facilitate workers "from everywhere, to everywhere".
- Pioneers formed our first International Council with sending bases in the United States, Canada, Europe (Hungary), Africa (Ghana), Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.
- Pioneers also had its first International Director, Doug McConnell, along with an international structure.

2010



Pioneers and Arab World Ministries amalgamated to strengthen the ministry in the Middle East and North Africa.

2019



3077
Members Worldwide



16
Bases & Offices



345
Ministry Teams



154
Languages



207
People Groups

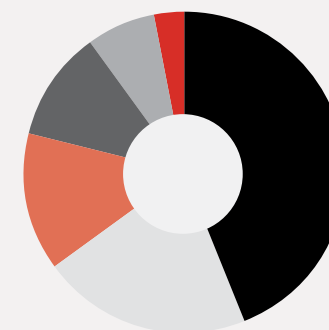


97
Countries



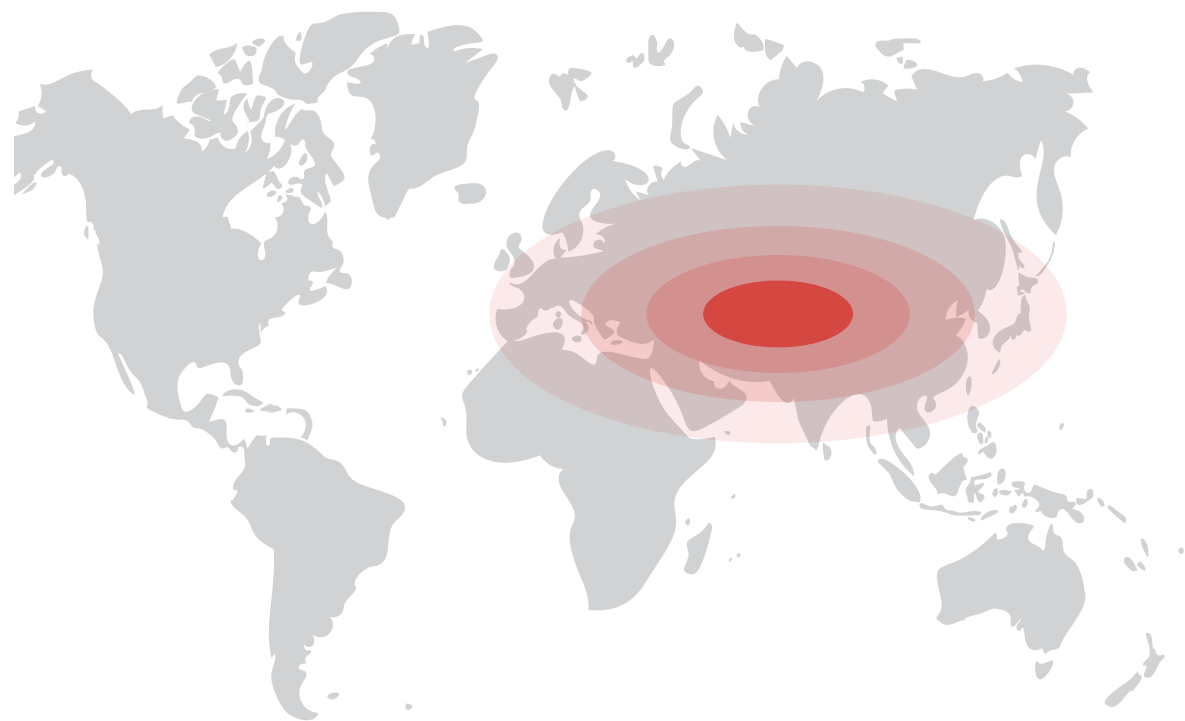
"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" **ISAIAH 52:7**

RELIGIOUS BLOCS SERVED



MUSLIM	44%
NONRELIGIOUS/SECULAR	21%
TRIBAL/ANIMISTIC	14%
BUDDHIST	11%
HINDU	7%
OTHER	3%

LOOKING FORWARD



Looking forward, we continue to focus on the least-reached regions of the world.



**For security purposes, names have been changed throughout this issue.*



Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. Psalm 2:8

3,000,000,000 people have not yet heard the gospel message, the good news of the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

7,000 people groups, entire cultures, do not know of God's great love for them.

The question, "Where to start?" seems daunting!

We understand that the task of taking the gospel message to 3 billion unreached people may seem overwhelming. With this in mind, we have launched *Ask For the Nations*.

Ask for the Nations focuses on 10 unreached people groups.

Our prayer is that this distinct focus will help you discover new cultures and practical ways we can reach out in love, sharing the Good News.

We invite you to join us through:

PRAYING
GIVING
GOING

Watch for ongoing communications. Learn relatable and personal ways you can join us in sharing the incredible hope we have in Jesus with people around the globe, including here in Canada. Our prayer is that God reveals your role in bringing the message of Jesus to every tongue, tribe and nation. (Rev. 7:9)

THIS ISSUE OF *ONE AMBITION* HIGHLIGHTS:

- + **How our extraordinary God is using ordinary people to introduce the Shwe* in South East Asia to Jesus.** Today there are almost as many Shwe as there are Canadians, 36 million, and yet there is not one known church among them. With only a handful of workers, most Shwe will remain unreached with no opportunity to hear of Christ's great love for them.
- + **How Buddhism, the religion of the Shwe, offers no hope.** Daily offerings to idols that cannot hear and cannot see, cannot transform lives. But we serve the God of hope! As you read about the Shwe people and the Pioneers team that is serving among them, remember that God's heart is that all Shwe people have the opportunity to know Him. He alone can bring them hope.
- + **Discover ways to join the journey of reaching the Shwe people.** We are all invited to be a part of the amazing story of God bringing man to Himself!
- + **Celebrate our past with us, letting our history inform and inspire our future!** Join us as we look forward and Ask For the Nations - together let's "Ask" for the Shwe.

Ordinary People EXTRAORDINARY GOD

RICHARD AND LISA

Young and recently married, Richard* and Lisa* packed up and went to Southeast Asia for a month. Richard took an excursion into the jungle, right to the border of a highly volatile, unreached country he knew little about. He spent hours sitting at the edge of the ravine, praying for the lost people who lived in that country. “God doesn’t talk to me audibly, but he did something in my heart that I can never forget,” he says. **“It felt as though God whispered right into my ear, ‘Remember this moment.’”**

Twenty-five years slipped away. They actively immersed themselves in church ministry. Nearing

fifty, with a growing family and a church they loved, it seemed their dreams had come true.

Then, an opportunity came through their church to go to that very same country Richard had prayed over all those years ago. “I remember my hand going up, and I didn’t even remember raising it.”

That moment he raised his hand, their lives changed.

Richard and Lisa moved as full-time workers to that same country 13 years ago. They have four children and five grandchildren living back home, and they only see them every year and a half. “Watching your

grandkids grow up over Skype—that’s a high price,” Richard says, his voice shaking. “But Jesus is worthy of our sacrifice.”

Lisa and Richard have seen Christ’s goodness in how He sustains them and has strengthened both their and their children’s faith. “God’s plan is not for us to be happy, healthy and wealthy in our homes. I’m sorry, it’s just not,” Richard says. **“Satan’s biggest distraction is that we get safe and comfortable.”**

Richard currently leads over half a dozen Pioneers teams; he encourages and counsels them, focusing

on keeping them healthy and sustained in the field. Gradually, Richard and Lisa have seen hard hearts soften after years of work from the various teams serving in the area. “After 10 years, we are just now getting traction and seeing people coming to Christ.”

However, Richard and Lisa are confident that being obedient is more important than seeing the results they desire. “I prefer to live with God showing me every step of the way. I don’t have to know the path,” Richard says. “There have been some hard journeys, but, oh my, God has been good!”



THE SHWE PEOPLE

Population
36 000 000

0.35%
Christian

DIET



SOUTH
EAST ASIA 

Median Age
28.5 YEARS

Degree of risk of major
infectious diseases

Prominent Religion
BUDDHISM 

Average life
expectancy

68.5 YEARS

Number of Churches: **0**



BUDDHISTS

As one of today's fastest growing faiths, Buddhism is one of the largest blocs of religious groups unreached with the gospel.



WORLD'S
4TH
largest religion

Approximately
500 MILLION
Buddhists globally

Buddhism makes up more than 55% of the population in Thailand, Myanmar, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Laos, and Mongolia.



OVER 60%
of Buddhists are
“folk Buddhists”

Some form of Buddhism is practiced in more than

25 COUNTRIES

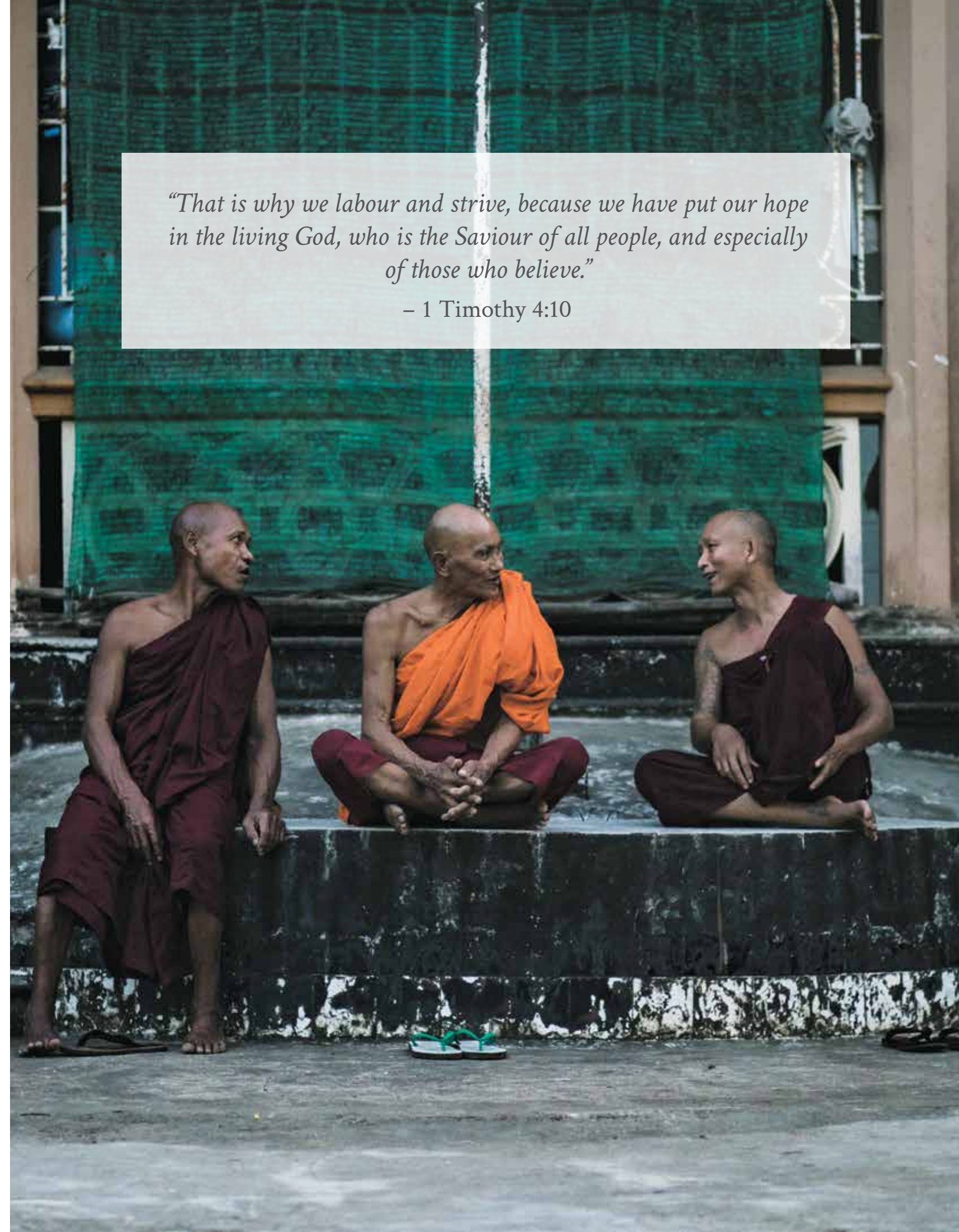


86% of Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims don't even know a Christian

Sources: <https://www.lausanne.org/content/buddhism-an-infographic> IMB – Buddhism basics
OMF – Understanding Buddhism Traveling Team – major world religions

“That is why we labour and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe.”

– 1 Timothy 4:10



GOD OUR HEALER:

The power of God to transform lives

The gas stove exploded. Kywe's* face was covered in burning oil. Flames leapt from his shirt and there was unbearable heat and excruciating pain.

In the ambulance he cried out, "God, if you are the true living God and a God of compassion, please spare my life and my body."

Today, Kywe is completely healed by the ultimate Healer. He says, "I came to know God after experiencing that amazing answer to prayer."

Kywe is Shwe*. There is no known Christian church among the Shwe people; language barriers and animosity between ethnic groups make it difficult for them to hear the gospel or integrate into churches dominated by other ethnicities. Our Pioneers team partners with an ethnic minority church. Their role is to teach and train new Christians like Kywe how to share the hope of the gospel across the racial boundaries that divide cultures within their nation.

Kwye and his four siblings heard about Jesus when a friend invited them to church. Initially he refused. He had no interest in the gospel. The day of the accident changed everything! When the five brothers and sisters became serious about Christianity, their family relationships became so tense they had to leave home. Yet, they remain steadfast in their faith. They are not alone; they have a new family as sons and daughters of the Living God (Ephesians 2:19).

Kwye and his siblings pray their Shwe family and friends would come to know Jesus. He says, "There are very few [Shwe] believers, but those who exist are very passionate about evangelism and serving God in ministry." Jesus is worthy!

Together, our Pioneers team, Kwye and his siblings are part of God's love story for the Nations, sharing the good news with the Shwe people. And like them, we all have a role to play in taking the gospel to the ends of the earth. What is yours?



PRAY,
GO,
GIVE,
START THE
CONVERSATION

PRAY:

- + Pray for churches to begin among the Shwe*.
- + Pray for wisdom for how to reach out to areas that are remote and volatile.
- + Pray for protection and wisdom when opposition intensifies, that each worker will be "as shrewd as a snake and innocent as a dove."
- + Pray that God will break down the barriers of distrust within communities and families so they can trust in Him and in each other.
- + Pray for more workers who are willing to go.

GO:

God is calling. The Shwe people, and others like them, need Jesus. The answer is to obey the call of God and GO. Whether you go short or long-term to the people and ministry He is laying on your heart, we are here to help you make it, step by step!

GIVE:

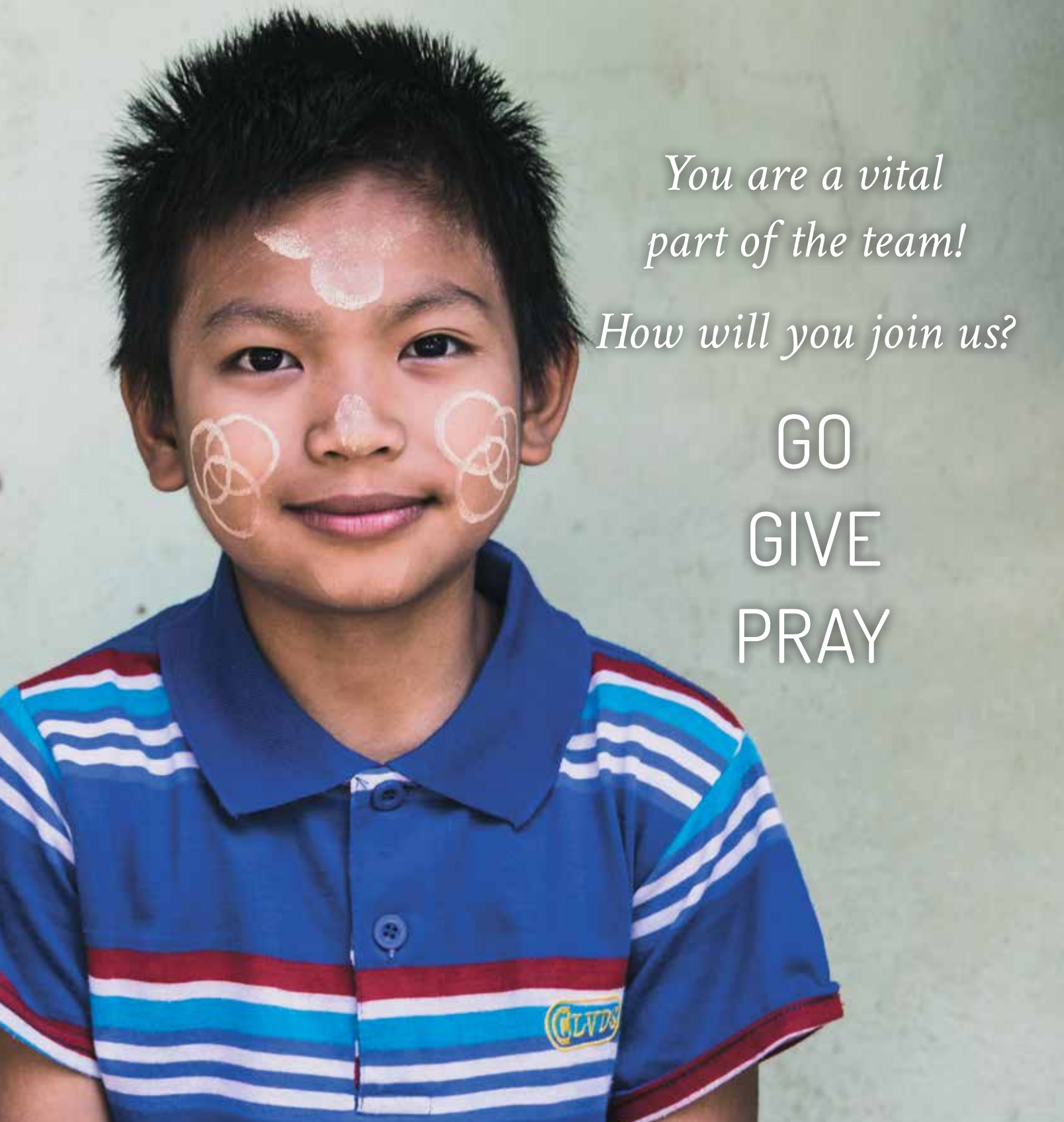
Your financial support of *Ask for the Nations* means more Shwe people will have the opportunity to hear and receive the gospel.

Your financial partnership enables us to:

- + engage and prepare new team members to serve among the Shwe and other unreached peoples.
- + care for those already on the field as they face great challenges.
- + effectively communicate the stories of unreached people like the Shwe.

START THE CONVERSATION

Contact us to see how you and your church can get involved with *Ask For The Nations*, through prayer, advocacy and to join teams around the globe bringing the gospel to those eager to hear it, like the Shwe people.



*You are a vital
part of the team!*

How will you join us?

GO
GIVE
PRAY



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