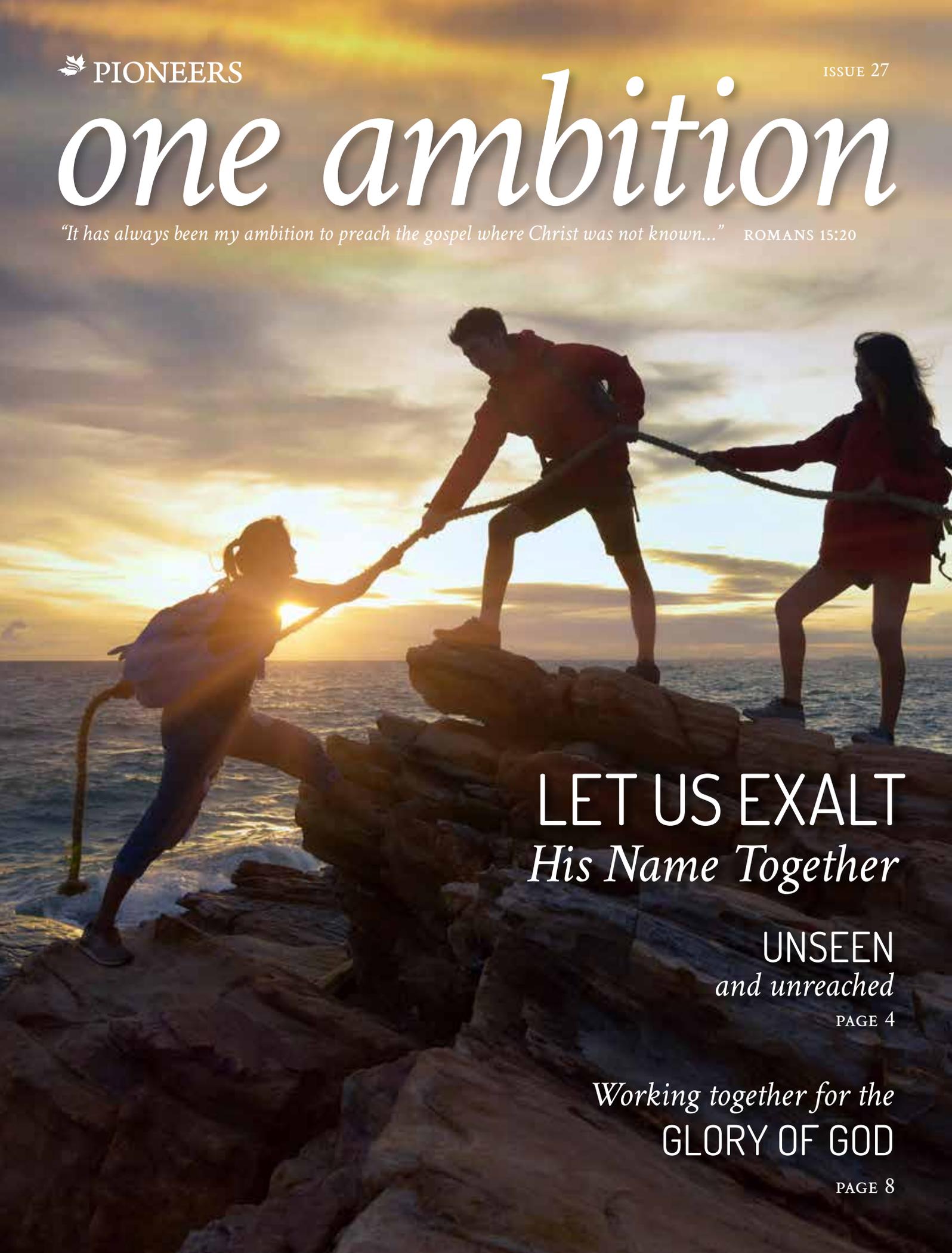


one ambition

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



LET US EXALT
His Name Together

UNSEEN
and unreached

PAGE 4

Working together for the
GLORY OF GOD

PAGE 8

The Miracle of Global **MISSIONARY UNITY**

One of my first introductions to multi-ethnic and cross-cultural cooperation was a week of meetings I was invited to facilitate. The meetings were in Belfast. Twenty-five participants came from Kenya, Brazil, Ireland, Egypt, India, the UK, and the US.

The meeting embodied 1 Cor. 12:12-13 in holy beauty:

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”

The discussions were strengthened by unique cultural perspectives, highlighting the redemptive aspects of each culture. Yes, we needed clarity at some points of the discussion—but stopping to understand each other changed everything. One person prays with passion and boldness, while another gently nudges us to listen to each other, making sure we are all on the same page. We are all blessed! For six days God was at work. We emerged with a partnership plan to work together to reach the unreached.

Dear friends, Jesus prayed: “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (John 17:20-21)

When he prayed this, He was thinking far into the future, to you and me and the next generations of Christ-followers, until Christ returns. This was his next to final prayer before He suffered so horribly on the cross. He prayed that we would demonstrate oneness and that our unusual unity within diversity would show the world that we are our precious Saviour’s disciples. Wow! What power through unity.

On the global scene in 2023, there is no better way to demonstrate unity than to truly partner together in the work to which God has called us. We have dedicated this issue to a few of our partners. Some are internal partners, sent from Pioneers offices in different countries. Some are external partners: independent organizations that help us reach out to special groups like the Deaf and those living in unreached regions. All these relationships expand ministry and help us go deeper among the unreached.

The Psalmist said it best: “Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name alone belongs the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.” (Psalm 115:1)

Our organizational labels will disappear as we enter heaven. Rather, we will be overjoyed as we interact with those who saw Jesus’ love in us and others who served him together. The miracle of true unity will have brought many into His Kingdom.



Donnie

Donnie Searce
President



UNSEEN AND UNREACHED

Our Partner: DOOR International

About: DOOR International serves to bring God's Word and the Gospel to the world's largest unreached people group, the Deaf worldwide. To discover more about DOOR International go to doorinternational.org/

One of the largest unreached people groups in the world is within your reach. They could be your neighbour, the cashier at the grocery store, your cousin, or one of the many people you encounter during your everyday routines. You do not have to go halfway across the world to find someone from this unreached people group.

Who is this people group?

Deaf people. The World Federation of the Deaf estimates that there are 70 million people who are deaf. For this article, we are referring not to people who became deaf due to advanced age, but rather to people born with hearing loss or who lost their hearing at an early age. Those people become part of the capitalized "Deaf" community by becoming culturally and linguistically part of the culture and using one of the 350+ sign languages worldwide as their preferred language. 98% of Deaf people are unreached.

DOOR International reaches out to Deaf people through a twofold ministry: Bible translation and church planting. We translate Scripture into sign language Bibles recorded on video. Every translation goes through a rigorous process to ensure accuracy, clarity, and acceptability by the community. DOOR has been part of more than 20 sign language Bible translation projects globally.

DOOR's church planting ministry, "2-by-2", helps establish strong Deaf-led churches where Deaf leaders can use their spiritual gifts to serve without linguistic or cultural barriers. Modelled after Luke 10 where Jesus sends out the 72 leaders 2-by-2, we send out teams of two indigenous Deaf leaders to different areas within their respective countries.

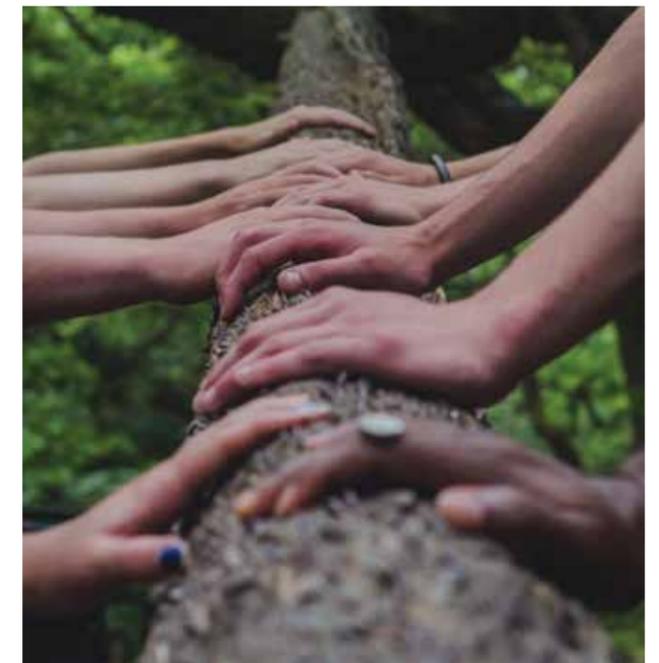
God is moving among Deaf communities of the world. He is revealing Himself to many Deaf people as a God who sees, understands, and makes them. When language barriers are removed, Deaf people's hearts are receptive and eager to learn more about Jesus and the incredible gift of salvation He offers freely to anyone.

Deaf people are part of the last frontier of unreached people groups, but DOOR has seen a significant change over the past few years among ministry partners and other groups. God is raising up new partners and spreading awareness of the need for Deaf people to know Christ.

There is still a long road ahead for ministry to Deaf people; however, in the past year, DOOR has been able to provide training for some sign language Bible translation teams sponsored by their own countries. Over a thousand Deaf leaders have been trained through our ministry and are training other Deaf leaders to utilize their spiritual gifts in the Lord's service.

Without others joining us in this mission to reach the Deaf, the least of the least, this great task would be impossible. God is faithful, and we eagerly anticipate seeing how He continues to bring more resources to reach the unreached.

Deaf people could be right outside your door. We encourage you to show Christ's love to them. If you don't know sign language, that's okay! **Have a sign language Bible resource such as deafbible.com or doorinternational.org/bible-languages ready to share with them. Learn about Deaf churches in your area so you can connect your Deaf neighbour to them.**



Please pray for the Deaf community: God loves and sees Deaf people. He understands them and is providing Bibles in their languages.

Read the story of how God changed the life of *Sasha, a Deaf man from Eurasia. P.6



Ordinary People: EXTRAORDINARY GOD

Everyone was afraid of Sasha. A known gang member and a threat to everyone around him, he was heavily involved with drugs and alcohol. One day, he became very sick and was taken to a hospital.*

The doctors broke the news to him that he was near death. Sasha started searching for help, for something to alleviate his worries. He visited multiple churches; he wanted to find God. Someone asked him if he wanted to be saved at one church he visited. He didn't hesitate, he said, "Yes, of course!"

Sasha prayed the salvation prayer, ending with a heartfelt "Amen!" But that was it. There was no discussion or explanation about how Jesus Christ came to save us all from our sins or how to live like Him.

Sasha continued to attend that church, but as a Deaf person, he needed an interpreter. He saw no changes within himself. His relationship with Christ was stagnant and he didn't know how to help it grow. Finally, he gave up. Since he was no longer part of his old gang, he became a street vendor, selling trinkets to tourists.

Later, someone told him about a nearby Deaf church which would be celebrating some baptisms. Curious, Sasha showed up to watch the baptisms. Vasko*, one of DOOR's 2-by-2 team members, saw Sasha sitting in the back and wandering alone after the ceremony.

Vasko went up to him and introduced himself. They had a lengthy conversation in which Vasko tried to persuade Sasha to start attending the Deaf church. Sasha responded that he needed to work because he needed to earn enough to live.

No matter how hard Sasha worked, he didn't sell any wares at all the week after his conversation with Vasko. He knew in his heart that God was putting up a stop sign for him—a sign for him to go back to church and learn more about Him.



DOOR opens the Word of God for men and women like Sasha who belong to a unique people group: the Deaf. DOOR recorded the Bible in Sign Language, making God's Word accessible to those who cannot hear.

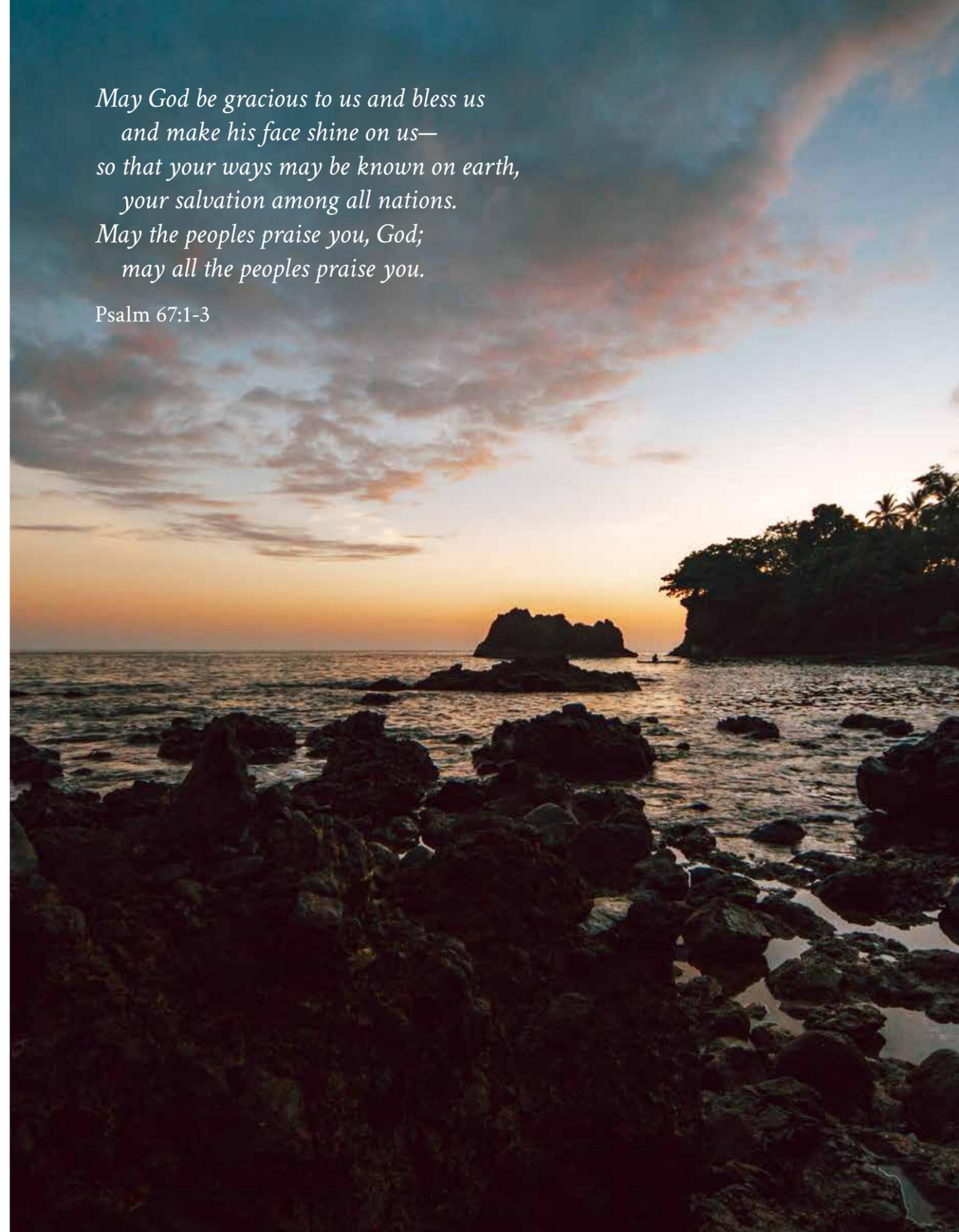
Jobless and hungry for spiritual truth, Sasha devoted his wholehearted attention to God's Word. Vasko introduced him to the Chronological Bible Translation (CBT) in sign language. Sasha was able to watch the stories on his own. They engaged in lively dialogues about the truth in God's Word, and finally, Sasha understood.

He accepted God into his heart after understanding who He was and how He sent His son Jesus to die for us. His life transformed, and he began to grow spiritually. The Deaf community was stunned to see this former gang member undergo such a drastic change. He became part of the community, and where he was once feared, now he is loved.

*names changed for security.

*May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us—
so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.
May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.*

Psalm 67:1-3





Working together for the **GLORY OF GOD:**



Our Partner: Pioneers Brazil

About: Flavio da Silva is the director of Pioneers Brazil. His desire is to reflect God's glory in all we do, internationally and within our home communities.

Pray for:

- + God to continue to grow a posture of Soli Deo, a deep dependence centred on God in both the Global North and the Global South
- + Openness to cultural diversity as we learn how God wants to use us together to reflect Him
- + God to show us how to let go of our "own" standards and sets of controls as we realize the only one truly in control is God, so our partnerships can thrive
- + Our teams, that we would bring glory to Him as we walk together in unity

God is doing beautiful things between the Global South and the Global North* as we partner together. Together we can dream in ways we could not dream alone. As we stay open to the Spirit's movement and continue to grow in deep dependence on Him, there is no limit to what the Lord can do through us as we join Him in taking the gospel to the unreached.

Pioneers Brazil has been experiencing amazing growth. Each year we have had a 10% growth in the number of Brazilian men and women responding to the call to go. There is no human explanation. The Lord is doing something very unique in Brazil. He is inspiring people of all ages to go out and serve. If all our candidates right now end up serving overseas, we would double in size. This is very exciting and brings a lot of responsibility. Please pray for wisdom, provision and care so we grow in a way that is worthy of the Lord and reflects His glory. Pray for God to give direction to this generation of Brazilians who are asking: "What is the Lord's role for us in the Great Commission?"

As the director of Pioneers Brazil, I have grown spiritually and personally from our partnerships. My wife and I were invited to join an American team in South Asia. The Global North provided structure and tools, something few organizations in the Global South would be able to provide. That structure blessed us and helped us thrive.

On the other hand, as a Brazilian man of colour, I could mingle with the local people without standing out. This opened opportunities for me to visit villages that my American teammates could not go to without drawing too much attention or risk to themselves. I was able to visit, teach Scripture and be a blessing to the people in the villages who hadn't had a chance to hear about Jesus.

This is a small example, but it illustrates how the Global North and South, as a team, can do more and better for the Kingdom than we can do alone.

The Lord is opening up opportunities as we, the Global South and the Global North, talk and seek the Lord together.



Let me share one story.

In conversation with the Australian Pioneers leaders at an international dinner, I shared that we have young Brazilian professionals that desire to serve in missions. Our Australian team had job openings that fit these professionals. It's a tremendous gift to have a paying job while helping provide workers to share Jesus alongside the Australian teams. Meeting around a table with people from every part of the world helps us see God's incredible vision for us. Partnering together to reach the lost shows the great and limitless ways God works from this kind of unity.

* The Global South is a term that most of the current literature in missiology refers to as the Majority World (Latin America, Africa, and Asia). Missio Nexus January 1, 2017.

The Global North refers to all the nations that have been called the Western nations (North America, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand).

PARTNER WITH US...

PRAY

- + Pray that God continues using our partnerships to bring glory to his kingdom
- + Pray for increased unity around the world so that God's people are a beacon drawing others to Jesus
- + Pray for the people impacted by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Pray that:
 - God provides for and guides all those rebuilding community infrastructure.
 - Pray for those rebuilding their lives as they lost family, homes, friends, neighbours and their livelihood.
 - Pray for the continued provision of tents, blankets, clothes, and food.
 - Pray for God to give wisdom, compassion, resources, and unity to all the leaders, organizations and people involved in relief, public health, education and trauma response in these next few months and years.
 - Pray that the authorities treat Turks and Syrians EQUALLY and for the Syrians who have been neglected and often regarded as less than their Turkish neighbours.
 - Pray for healing from the compound trauma so many have faced over the past several years.
 - Pray that God continues to reveal himself through miracles, dreams, and visions and that these encounters will draw many people closer to the truth and hope they can only find in Jesus.



pioneers.ca

There is a tremendous need for an increased prayer covering for Central Asia.

If you would like to join us in regular prayer please use the QR code to sign up and receive the new 'Fuel & Fire' prayer letter.

<http://eepurl.com/hZlb8H>

GIVE

Our team is on the ground, working with those who have been impacted by the Turkey/Syrian earthquake. Your gifts equip them with the essentials they need: shelter, clean water, food, medicine and trauma counselling. We go in the name of Jesus.

To give now go to <https://pioneers.ca/turkey-earthquake-relief>

GO

Is God calling you to go to the field? Pioneers needs you!

Central Asia

We are praying for:

- + Arabic-speaking trauma counsellors
- + Men and women with a passion for prayer and church planting who are skilled in photography, writing, social media, IT, and administration. They will work together with a shared goal of producing a tourism website used as a tool to reach and disciple unreached peoples in the area.
- + Medical professionals (nurses, health care administrators) to assist the medical doctor at a clinic serving displaced Kurdish people, providing a base for the discipleship of new believers and planting a new church.





“Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.”

Philippians 2:1,2



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