



Bringing
learning & ministry
TOGETHER



Obeying the *Great Commission* by Tim Stoltzfus, IGo Pastor

Unreached people groups (UPG's) are those distinct ethnicities that have never heard the gospel. They are the 2 billion people alive today who may just as well be living in 1000 BC because they have no knowledge of Jesus' coming to earth.

Focus on UPG's should not marginalize evangelistic endeavors in other places. All persons without Christ are dying and going to hell and we must labor to save all, whether they are nearby or far away. For this reason, focus on the unreached is not primarily an issue about lostness; **all** men without Christ are lost!

So why give special emphasis on those who have never heard? I see four primary motivations:

1. Obedience to the plain command of Christ

Jesus' last words to His disciples were, "Go therefore and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Jesus specifies the target and tells who we should go to: "all **nations**." This word as spoken by Jesus is *ethnos*, meaning people of the same

race, tribe, or group. Our English words *ethnic* and *ethnicity* are derived from *ethnos*. The target is not nation-states or countries, but rather the various racial ethnicities or people groups of earth.

2. God's desire for believers from all the peoples of earth

God's redemptive heart for all the people groups of earth is a marvelous theme throughout Scripture. The culmination of God's grand plan for the nations is recorded in Revelation 7:9, where John saw a large multitude which could not be numbered, comprised of believers from "every *ethnos*, from all tribes and peoples and languages."

3. The example of Paul

"I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, **not where Christ has already been named**, lest I

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*Hayden & Trevin
MTM Stateside Facilitator*



Stephen Burkholder
EQUIP Director



Clinton Weaver
EQUIP Personal Worker

IGo Faculty & Staff

The faculty and staff of IGo give direction to the teaching and ministries of the IGo students. We are blessed with men and women who serve in these capacities with diligence and a passion to advance the Kingdom of Christ.

Administrative Council

The administrative council is made up of Duane Weber, Deaniel Yoder, and Tim Stoltzfus, who oversee the IGo programs.

INVEST (IGo Network of Volunteer Educators Serving Thailand)



English For Life (EFL)

This INVEST team currently serves at two large government high schools, three government elementary schools, and Christian English programs where they can teach the Bible. It is their goal to build relationships in the schools

and invite Thai students to come learn about Jesus at various programs run by local Thai churches.



WE Center (WEC)

This INVEST team helps the local Thai church operate WE Club (White Elephant Club), which is a Saturday English club. They are also working with the Thai church to develop a skills training program focused on youth and at-risk women.

Currently, English tutoring and sewing classes are offered.



Wisdom Tree Home (WTH)

This INVEST team serves as caregivers and English teachers for the Wisdom Tree Home, which is a Christ-centered, bilingual daycare/preschool located in Chiang Mai. Wisdom Tree Home is an outreach of the local Thai church. Their

mission is to consistently train, teach and nurture children from a Christian worldview and build relationships with the parents or guardians.



VCS Homeschool (VCS)

This INVEST team assists the EFL and WEC teams with English programs, but primarily focus on Christian education for the children of volunteers. They operate a daily homeschool group that provides a Christian school atmosphere.



Macedonian Teaching Ministry (MTM)

MTM is actively working to equip native church leaders throughout Asia and beyond to reach their own cultures and unreached people for Jesus Christ. Raymond & Naomi Burkholder and Rich & Nicole Moore normally conduct eight to

ten MTM leadership training conferences each year as well as three to five three-week Bible schools in India, Nepal, and Myanmar, thereby reaching the unreached by equipping and mobilizing native Christians and pastors. For more information about MTM, visit <https://mtm-global.org/>.

*MTM's schedule for 2021 has been altered due to COVID restrictions.



EQUIP (Educate. Qualify. Unite. Inspire. Prepare.)

EQUIP is a partnership ministry between the stateside EQUIP Committee

and IGo. Stephen Burkholder and Clinton Weaver oversee sixteen orphan homes in Asia. They visit the children's homes and provide accountability and encouragement. EQUIP is currently partnering with sixteen pastors for the care of 114 children.

Left: Wisdom Tree Home

Right: English For Life



build on someone else's foundation, but as it is written, **'Those who have never been told of Him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.'**" (Romans 15:20-21)

4. Disproportionate access to the gospel

Focusing on those who have never heard the gospel is a strategic decision. Because not all people have equal access or availability to hear, those who know Jesus need to intentionally focus on telling those who have little or no access. Unless a Christian goes and becomes a cross-cultural missionary, most people in the unreached groups will live and die with no opportunity to hear of Christ. There are approximately 5.5 million full-time Christian workers in the world; however, less than one-half of one percent of these are working

among the unreached!¹

I have often been stirred in heart by the testimony of John Keith Falconer, missionary to Egypt, who said, "I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light."

Last words are lasting words, but unfortunately, the last words that Jesus uttered have become lost words to many.

But not to all. It is a great joy and privilege to serve at IGo and see firsthand the stirrings God is doing. An increasing number of youth from our conservative Anabaptist churches are taking Jesus' last words literally, and God is lighting their hearts on fire to go and make disciples of all people groups.

¹ The Traveling Team. <http://www.thetravelingteam.org/stats>.

Pictures from Thailand Ministry Trips





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I WITNESS NEWS

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

OUR MISSION

The purpose of IGo is to provide students with a cross-cultural setting in which mission work, Biblical teaching and personal discipleship can take place simultaneously.

We believe that it is more beneficial to be training missionaries overseas rather than in the affluent Western setting. IGo provides students with opportunities to travel and minister in Asia, with regular returns to the classroom for teaching and mentoring by instructors. The focus is not solely theoretical; instead it addresses the everyday issues a student experiences in ministry.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Institute for Global Opportunities Canada

PO Box 34, Sioux Narrows, ON P0X 1N0

JOIN US AT REACH 2022

REACH brings together conservative Anabaptist ministries and Kingdom workers from all walks of life. Join us for this two-day program that includes 97 breakout sessions to support and equip people in ministry and all those with a desire for service. Over 50 participating ministries share their vision in focus sessions and displays. General sessions tie the event together with sermons, singing, and prayer. All are welcome!

Date: March 24-25, 2022

Location: Calvary Church
1051 Landis Road, Lancaster, PA 17601

**Read more information
and register:** fbep.org/reach-2022