

Senders, Pioneers, Builders and Partners

Brenda & Jerry – GH Missions Directors

The plant that died

- Jonah 4:7-10

5 *Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city.* 6 *Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant.* 7 *But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered.* 8 *When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."* 9 *But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."* 10 *But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight.* 11 *And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"*
 - **What's God teaching us?**
 - **"Our focus" in missions matters**
 - Our concern should not be for what we get out of stepping out in faith to bring the good news to those who don't have it
 - *The plant providing shade from discomfort.*
 - Our concern should be God's concern
 - *Concern for the cities, nations and people of the world who are hopeless without encountering Jesus.*
 - We send workers and we go into the harvest field, not because there might be something in it for us. The reward is seeing Jesus receive the reward for His sufferings.
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Senders

*We have Donna Cross with us. She serves our ACOP Global Workers on our Global Reps team. We'd like to ask Donna to share with us about her experience with **sending** when she pastored at NECF in Edmonton. We know you have sent numbers of fruitful and faithful workers globally*

as missionaries and within Canada to minister or pastor in churches. We'd like you to focus on one family specifically that you sent to the middle east in these questions.

Interviewee

- **Donna Cross**
- Donna, what are the results from sending some of your best to least reached people groups? Do you have a story or two you could share?
- Donna, what steps did you take as a Pastor and Church to send workers to multiply globally?
- Donna, how did your church feel about sending and how were they impacted by this global work?

If you do not have people from within your church currently being mobilized and sent, can we encourage you to join forces with other ACOP churches by supporting others who are going? That's how we send together and are better together.

Pioneers

Sean and Melissa were Global Workers with ACOP Beyond for 6 years and returned 18 months ago to serve as President of EC, where they continue to equip and mobilize for global missions.

Interviewees:

- Sean & Melissa
- Sean, can you explain what a Least Reached or Unreached People Group is and how identifying "gospel access" is crucial to understanding these terms and need?
- Melissa, why did you leave Canada to go work among a least reached people group?
- Melissa, what percentage of the nation where you served were followers of Jesus?
- Melissa, why does it matter that we send workers to people groups who have no access to the gospel?
- Sean, how do you see your return to Canada and your role here lending itself to sending workers to least reached people groups?
- Sean, how can ACOP leaders influence and prioritize this?

Next we are going to talk to Tiara and Britney. Both are newly approved Global Workers.

- Tiara B
 - Tiara, you're a brand new worker. Thank you for saying yes.
 - Roughly where in the world are you going and can you tell us about what work among this people group will look like?
 - Britney B
 - Britney, you were just in this country in North Africa on a scouting trip. 5 of you have just been approved to return to North Africa as global workers later this year and into next year. Can you tell us how it came to be that so many of you sensed the call to go to North Africa?
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Builders

Andrew Vahi serves with his wife Erica and their children in New Brunswick where they give leadership to the Village of Hope. They also are part of the leadership of the Village of Hope in Estonia.

Interviewee

- Andrew Vahi
 - Andrew, could you tell us a bit of the work you have pioneered and how long-term mission commitment has resulted in making disciples?
 - Andrew, could you tell us a story of someone's life who has been transformed by Jesus and is now a disciple maker and leader?
 - Andrew, have churches been birthed out of this work?
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Partners

Both Stan Powers and Gary Langerud are part of our Global Harvest Missions team and both work into Africa.

Interviewees:

- Stan Powers & Gary Langarud
 - Gary Who or what are Global Partners?
 - Stan ACOP Global Harvest has 4 major initiatives. Can you tell us a bit about these four initiatives and how we are assisting our Global Partners?
 - Gary What are our Global Partners doing about sending missionaries themselves? Any examples or stories?
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Lift up our eyes

- John 4:34-36 (slide 8)
³⁴ “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to **finish his work**. ³⁵ Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still **four months until harvest**’? I tell you, **open your eyes** and **look at the fields!** They are **ripe for harvest**. ³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and **harvests a crop for eternal life**, so that **the sower and the reaper may be glad together**.

A Harvest oriented Vision

- **Finish his work** – *God’s work is the harvest - to make disciples of all nations*
- Four months until harvest – *busy “preparing”*
- Open our eyes – *eyes of faith*
- **Look at the fields** – Our focus matters
 - *We could only look at the harvesters, the homestead, the grain that is already in the bins. But Jesus implores us to look at the fields – to be Harvest focused.*
- Ripe for harvest – *Ripeness implies ready to receive the gospel*
- Harvest a crop for eternal life – *remembering that the message is eternal life. That’s the harvest*
- Sower (*those who send*) and reaper (*those who go*) are glad together. Critical partnership

Let’s not self-limit the harvest by not projecting, by faith, global expansion and multiplication. The church is called to be established among every nation / people group. That is what each of us is called to and every church is called to. To see and reap a harvest among the nations.

Can we lift up our eyes ACOP and see the harvest, both in Canada and around the world.

Prayer and commissioning for new global workers