



# REACHING THE UNREACHED



ACCESS  
CHALLENGED  
NATIONS

It's always been about the whole gospel to the whole world by the whole church. Difficult to reach places are not exempt. Every people group needs to hear the truth of God's Word. While we rejoice in where the gospel has gone, and a harvest has been reaped, we must also intentionally focus on where the gospel has not gone, where the harvest awaits. Nations, territories, and people groups that are unreached, may exist within what we refer to as access-challenged areas. There is no place totally closed. We need only to find the key to open the door and step through it. **We in Global Missions, and Short-Term Missions, look forward to empowering you to serve.**



**BRUCE HOWELL**  
Global Missions Director



**JIM POITRAS**  
Director of Education and  
Short-Term Missions



## WHAT IS AN **ACN**?

An **Access Challenged Nation** is a nation or tribe that has been minimally reached or not yet reached with the gospel. We characterize an **ACN** if it meets two out of these three criteria:

- 1) Little or no known, indigenous Apostolic presence
- 2) Challenging visa/immigration policies
- 3) Persecution (political, social, or religious)



## HOW IT BEGAN

The church has always been involved in **ACN**. In modern times, Apostolic pioneers have worked in cities, nations and people groups that were access challenged, without referring to them as such. However, the **ACN** initiative was born out of an idea that God placed in the heart of a family who was planting a church in the Middle East. Through the prayers of a small group of new believers, God began to open doors into a variety of places. Within less than 2 months, the Lord opened up miraculous opportunities to visit and minister in three very challenging locations: Iran, Libya, and North Korea. These experiences grew their faith and inspired them to believe that NO PLACE and NO PEOPLE are beyond the reach of our God! In fact, they found He was already at work in some of the world's most closed nations. This was the launch of modern-day **ACN** in our movement.

**...experiences grew  
their faith and  
inspired them...**



# WHERE ARE MOST ACNs LOCATED?



in the **10/40 WINDOW**

## WINDOW FACTS:

- home of 5 major world religions
- 2/3 of the world's population
- least amount of missionaries

What's the difference between a Creative Access Nation and an **ACN**?

There are many nations which require missionaries and Short-Term Missions workers to think outside the box concerning their approach to sharing the Gospel. In order to be classified as an **ACN**, a nation must meet the threshold outlined on the previous page.

# GROWING

*We want you to be equipped as you begin your journey to reach the unreached!*

Many current or retired **ACN** missionaries would love to share inspiring stories and real-life challenges with you. For more information on opportunities to connect with **ACN** workers via quarterly Zoom calls, please contact us at:

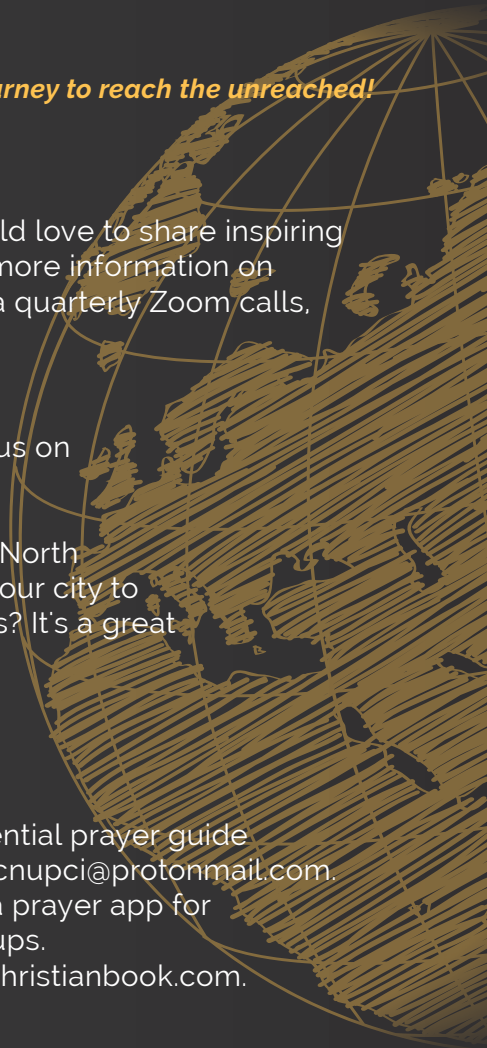
**acnupci@protonmail.com.**

For prayer points and limited updates, follow us on Instagram: **@reach\_acn.**

Did you know people from our **ACN** list live in North America? Why not seek out a group living in your city to become familiar with their needs and customs? It's a great way to get a headstart on your journey.

Need resources to help you on your way?  
Consider the following:

- ACN Prayer Cards** - purchase the quintessential prayer guide for **ACNs** by emailing [acnupci@protonmail.com](mailto:acnupci@protonmail.com).
- joshuaproject.org** - daily prayer tools and a prayer app for unreached people groups.
- LIVE DEAD: The Journey** - available from [christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com).





# GOING

*I think I want to go.*



## *What's next?*

### **Prayer**

This may seem obvious, however this cannot be overlooked or neglected. Though we are the hands and feet of Jesus, we cannot save anyone. We must pray that the Lord prepares the way and the hearts of men.

### **Cultural Study**

Take time to study the nation you are burdened for. It can be difficult and intimidating to walk into an unfamiliar nation and we want our workers to be prepared. A step beyond this may be studying to prepare yourself to be integrated into the language of the culture.

### **Evangelism Development**

We strongly encourage you to get involved with evangelism efforts wherever you are currently. Begin teaching Bible studies and talking to people about the gospel. Be in prayer to find someone in your daily life who needs to hear the good news!

# GATEWAY NATIONS

While there is no official list, an **ACN Gateway Nation** is a nation that shares some **ACN** characteristics or provides access to people from an **ACN**. For instance, some nations present very challenging security situations, while remaining relatively open for visas and access. Another example is a nation that shares a language and culture with an **ACN**, but is open in regard to evangelism.

**ACN Gateway nations** change over time, but they provide a mid-range environment in which new workers can learn and grow. Seasoned workers and national leaders in these nations will be able to provide valuable teaching and training to those desiring to work in an **ACN**.





# ἀποστέλλω

## Where does the word apostello come from?

Apostello is a Greek word used in the New Testament to describe the sending away or appointing of someone to go to a particular place.

## APOSTELLO TRAINING

**Apostello Training** is a pilot program under the umbrella of the NEXT STEPS program hosted by Short-Term Missions.

**Apostello** is intended to meet the need for well-trained workers to reap the harvest across all of **ACN** through intensive training which will include topics such as spiritual disciplines, cultural understanding, Biblical evangelism concepts, security, logistics and more.

**Apostello** is for those who have had at least 2 months of AIM experience on the field.

**Apostello** is taught by seasoned missionaries with experience in a variety of nations and cultures which provide a foundation for **ACN** workers to step into new fields with confidence.

**Apostello** takes place once a year by invitation only. Visit the **ACN** web page for more info about how to apply once you've met the 2-month minimum AIM requirement. (Visit [gmstm.net/acn](http://gmstm.net/acn).)

# SECURITY

## and our Theology of Risk



**How far are we willing to go to meaningfully share the Gospel with those who have never heard?**

The short answer is; *as far as Jesus asks.*

In the New Testament and other examples of the early church, there were defining moments of Spirit-led bold obedience that defied human reason. This record of supreme obedience and sacrifice inspire and inform the church to this day. In that same New Testament and early church, there were also moments when the apostles and believers went into hiding or fled for their lives (Acts 8:1-4). It should be noted that God's purpose and design was served in both instances, for it was through the scattering in Acts 8 that the Gospel reached Samaria.



### **Our ideal is obedience.**

Our theology of risk is grounded in a complete dependence on the leading of the Spirit of God within the believer and through God-ordained spiritual authority in our lives. Suffering for the cause of Christ and suffering for our own self-willed choices might look the same from the outside, but we believe God judges the heart and the motive, not just the action. We want to live in submission to His will and follow His guidance, for His glory. Our ideal is not martyrdom, it's obedience.

# STAYING

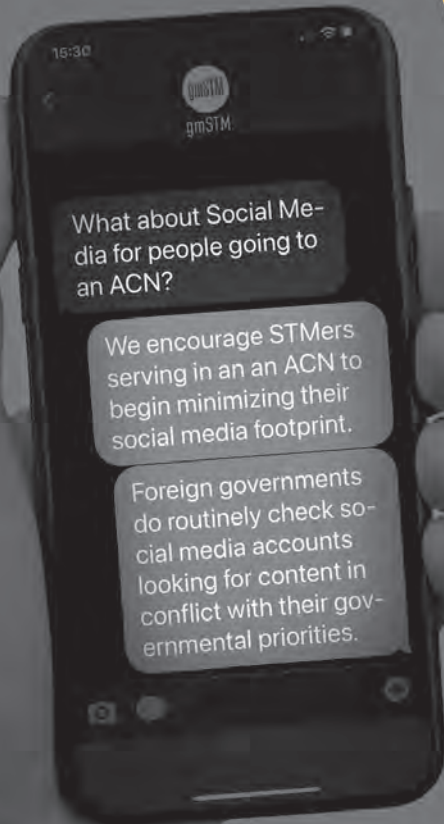
If you're one of those who is interested but cannot currently "go," there are several ways you can be involved with reaching an **ACN** right from your own home.

**Pray!** Please join with us in praying daily for an **ACN** and unreached people groups.

**Contribute** toward sending someone else via our online giving portal, Mobile Cause. Text **ACN** to 71777.

**Advocate** for those yet unreached by helping us spread the word of this great need to those in your sphere of influence.

\*You won't find much about this initiative on social media due to the sensitive nature of the program..







Join our team in praying for one **ACN**/day.  
Need prayer ideas? Email [acnupci@protonmail.com](mailto:acnupci@protonmail.com) to  
purchase a comprehensive prayer guide.

For a digital copy of this brochure visit:

**gmstm.net/acn**

**What if it was your dollars that helped reach a soul in an ACN?**  
Financially support evangelism efforts across **ACNs**  
by texting **ACN** to **71777**.



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