

What is God doing?

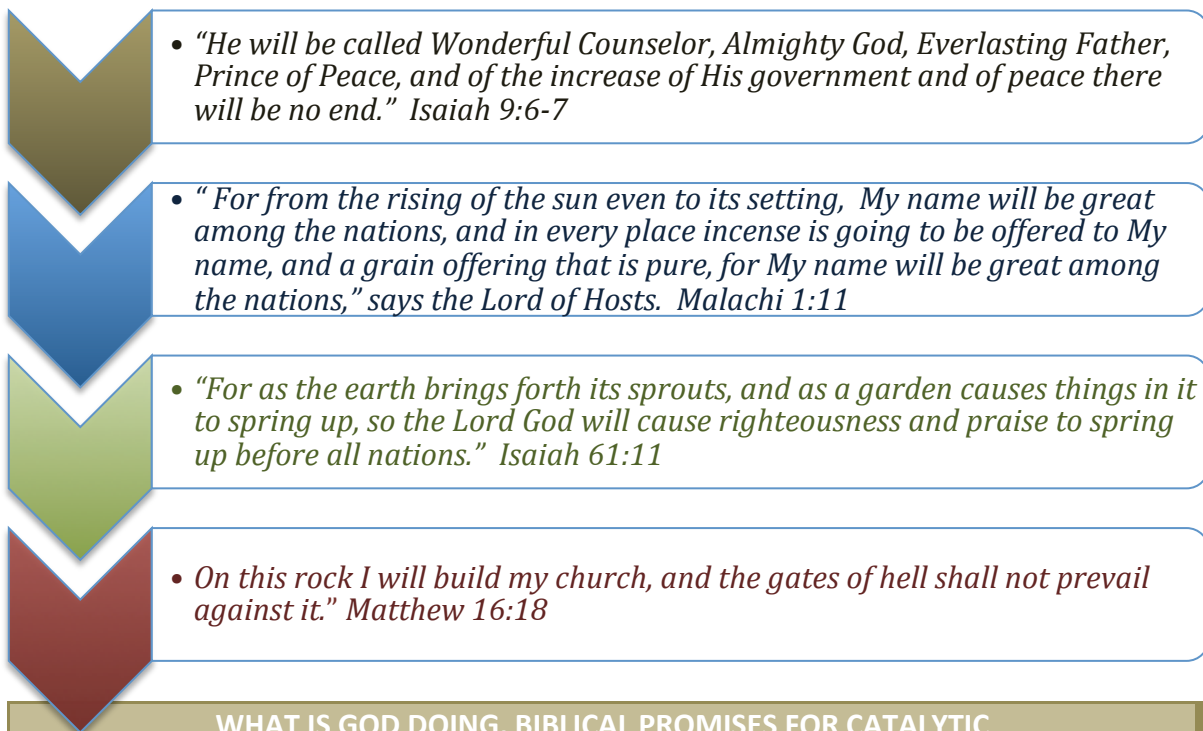
"Cease striving, and know that I am God! I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth" (Psalm 46:10)

Psalm 46:10 emphasizes that God is always working to exalt His name. He has promised to build His kingdom; He will not be stopped! Because of these promises we can count on God to touch every university with the gospel. In countries all over the world students are discovering that He is providing resources and preparing hearts for salvation and dynamic fellowship with Him. God is inviting you to join in His plan. As you seek His heart and will for your university you can have expectant faith in what He is already doing to prepare people and resources for a movement.

The foundation for catalytic focus is not the scope or the great need of 130,000,000 students, but rather it is God and what He has promised He is doing in places all over the world, even before the first missionary arrives on the scene.

It is worthy to note that before Jesus ascended into heaven and sent the apostles out into the world in Luke 24:27, 45-47, He opened the disciples' minds to understand all that was written about Him in the Scripture that ***must and will*** be fulfilled.

While many of the prophecies relating to His birth, life, death, and resurrection have already been fulfilled, many others relating to the building and extending of His kingdom are part of our ***confident expectation*** as we dream about "movements everywhere." These too "must be fulfilled." Opposition, failure, or lack of results cannot undermine these promises. These are things God will do. Here are just a few of the hundreds of examples:



- *"He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, and of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end." Isaiah 9:6-7*
- *"For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure, for My name will be great among the nations," says the Lord of Hosts. Malachi 1:11*
- *"For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes things in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all nations." Isaiah 61:11*
- *On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18*

What is God doing in the world and what has He promised to do? From these passages and many, many others, we see that He is working to exalt His name among the nations; He is preparing people and resources in many places for the spread of His kingdom. The compassionate heart of the Good Shepherd is moving on the unreached campuses of the world. Through His Spirit He is preparing hearts and leaders for His kingdom to extend through His body in every university of the world.

The most important foundational principle: Leading catalytic movements will flow out of your faith and fellowship with God.

Your theology determines everything.

My journey into embracing scope and leading multiple movements flowed out of what I came to believe about God's heart. Answering the following questions in a fresh way in relation to the unreached scope of your nation or region is foundational:

- Who are You, Lord?
- What have You promised to do in the world?
- In light of what You have promised, what can our fellowship with you look like?

Before you ever set foot in a new university or a new city, ask yourself, "what do you believe about God and what He is doing there?"

Who God is and His Heart of compassion for us and for the lost is our motivation.

Experiencing fellowship with the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost sheep defines our motivation as we go to new universities and locations. It isn't about our organization growing or our success as missionaries, but about His heart for those campuses and students that lie beyond our current reach. As you go to a new university or city, you are seeking to have fellowship with the One who taught about the shepherd who left the 99 to look for the one. When our motivation is our fellowship with Him it will thrust us out, not for our own gain, but because this really is His heart, first for you and then for those He desires to reach. What we believe about His heart and His compassion will determine our actions. When I understood this, multi-campus movement paradigm became a non-negotiable.

What has He promised to do? What has He revealed in His word that He is already doing before we ever show up in a new location? Answering this question changes how we view the scope of growing movements in the unreached universities of the world. If we see them as places where we have to go and "make it happen" then we can be overwhelmed and discouraged, but if we see them as places where He is already working to build His kingdom, then that changes everything. We go to join Him: to discover where and in whom He is placing this vision, to find those miraculous situations where He has divinely prepared partners, volunteers, new believers, and resources. Because of His promises, we can believe that He is already working, even in the hardest-soil places.

Go with faith expectation in Who He is and what He has promised to do. Take the initiative to go to new places and discover what it will mean to enter into fellowship with Him in what He is doing there. We are joining Him, not asking Him to bless our efforts. We are aligning our plans and our steps with what He has promised to do, expectantly looking for people of peace and other resources He has promised to provide, and then focusing on them to see movements built.

"I have come to set the world on fire..." Jesus in Luke 12:49

Imagine a hillside in summer, by a high mountain plateau. Campers have come to enjoy the beauty of the mountains, the clear streams, and the lure of the forest. Twilight fades into night as a few lonely campfires glow in a seemingly losing battle against the growing darkness. Then something amazing begins to happen. New campfires spring to life. Points of warm, flickering light ignite all over the hillside, spreading out as far as the eye can see. Illumined in the glow of each fire, a band of friends gather, eager to share a meal and experience the warmth of true friendship.

Now imagine your nation from God's vantage point. In a way similar to the above scene, God is working to ignite fires in new places, illuminating the darkness with His presence. Imagine spiritual "camp fires" spreading in every university as people come to Christ and bands of believers join together to become His mouth to speak, His arms to embrace, and His feet to go as He uses them to spread His light in the darkness.

God is igniting spiritual fires in universities all over the world as He moves in the hearts of one or two students or volunteers who join together in His name and for His sake.

But if I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name. His word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot." (Jeremiah 20:9).

God Igniting fires in Romania

Though there are hundreds of examples that could be referenced from Vietnam, Indonesia, China, and Russia, let me share one first hand example I experienced from Romania. Ten years after the revolution in Romania, there was still no student ministry in Craiova, a city with around 17,000 students. Then God began to stir the heart of one young woman, Anca, to pray. God so enflamed her heart with a burden for the lost at her university that she couldn't keep it to herself. She took a step of faith and opened her heart to her sister who was also a student and a believer, and they both agreed to pray together weekly. Seeing the brokenness in the lives of students around them, they prayed for God to use them to raise up laborers on their campus. Initially it was difficult because they felt that God could do little with just two of them, but they remembered the Lord's promise, *"where two or more are gathered there I am in their midst."* They persevered in prayer and began to celebrate Jesus' presence with them and His desire to work through them. More than a month later, another student joined them and they continued to meet and pray weekly, asking God to move in their university.

During the semester break these students attended a conference with students from 12 other cities around Romania. There they made a commitment to continue their simple plan to pray. They knew that unless God worked through them, they could do nothing. In addition to prayer, they also made a commitment to take the gospel to their classmates at the university and trust God to raise up others to join them in the new semester.

They began their plan by inviting a few students from local churches to join them in prayer. Soon five students were meeting with them and beginning to dream about how to make Christ known on their campus. As they worshipped God and studied His Word together, He gave them a desire to actively share Christ with others. They stepped out in obedience and trusted God to change lives. A spiritual fire began.

Since God is working in many universities that currently lie outside the scope of our traditional ministries, you may be asking yourself what can you do to enter into His work and see movements established in every university.

“Catalytic” is a strategy you can use to help reach all of the universities within your scope as God opens the door.

It is feasible to project that one staff member or a small team of staff working catalytically could reach a large number of campuses within their scope. Applying catalytic principles and using the technology that is available to you, this strategy can enable you to realize your vision. This is not a typical expansion strategy where staff travel regularly to the campus to pioneer and sustain the ministry. It is however consistent with CCC’s historic vision, mission, values, and distinctives. This strategy is driven by the scope of seeing movements among all 130 million University students of the world.

God has promised that He is working through His Spirit in many universities. He is preparing laborers and resources to build His kingdom and exalt His name! He is inviting us to join Him. There are universities right now where His name is not named. There are places that have been held in darkness for hundreds of years, where a year from now there will be bands of students gathering and singing praises to his name. Where there is cursing and darkness, there will be hearts and voices that proclaim His glory. His light that will shine where the darkness has reigned for so long, even as He has said, ***“I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted on the earth.” Psalm 46:10***