

THE ROCK *see page 2*



Word of Life in New York gave Ramesh the opportunity to minister God's Word in his first "live" week of ministry since COVID-19.

RREACH envisions changing the way One Billion Individuals think and hear about the Lord Jesus Christ, to the glory of the Father, and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE ROCK VS. INCLUSIVISM

False Hope, No Hope, True Hope

Jesus said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter *answered*, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and *on this rock* I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” (Matthew 16:15-18, *italics added*)

A nearly invisible germ, looks like it wears a crown, has brought the world to its knees. Never before has a plague spread deep and wide across the globe so rapidly. My birthland and adoptive land competed for first place in the trifecta of criteria of deaths, cases and hospitalizations over most of last year.

While the world rushes to find a foolproof vaccine, we have also been made fools by questionable alternatives said to diagnose and cure, prevent and treat COVID-19. Fraudulent products are both unproven and illegal. Sadly, they are dangerous

because they provide a false hope to those who may die taking them.

Is a False Hope Good?

The entire world has been affected with a fatal, spiritual virus. No human, in history or geography, is excepted from sin. Not even one is righteous. While religions and philosophies have offered questionable ways of salvation, there’s a cure being offered more dangerous than other claims. It sounds like it offers a method of eternal salvation, but it is neither biblically provided, promised nor proven. It gives a false hope to those diagnosed with the sin-deathly disease and keeps them from proper treatment and effective access, let alone does not provide an eternal cure.

For want of a better term, its proponents are called *inclusivists*. In terms of salvation, they attempt to offer eternal hope to those who are sincere in their search for salvation but will not hear about the Savior, Jesus. Inclusivists propose that people can get into heaven without meeting the biblical

condition of salvation, i.e., trust in Jesus as the object of their salvation. Though people don’t have knowledge of Jesus, they can receive eternal life. Their faith-search in itself, albeit without Jesus as the content of their belief, can get them in.

No believer in Jesus should be against inclusion of all people in the invitation to salvation. However, the Bible does not see a way into salvation for the unbeliever. Even the most moral, ardent seeker must embrace the right object to faith—Jesus. They must know about the Lord Jesus and believe on the Lord Jesus to be saved. All their sincerity in the wrong medicine will only give them a false hope. They will only be blessed with salvation if the content of their prescription is correctly compounded, administered and received.

The Rock is Hard: True Hope vs. False Hope

In our Bible passage, Jesus’ prescription for the spiritual virus is clear in His blessing of Peter’s confession. Peter is

APPLY IT!

- *What would happen if a deathly ill person does not know of life-giving medicine?*
- *Will his or her sincere reception of any other medicine help?*
- *How does this example apply to the matter of those not hearing about Jesus in order to be saved?*

blessed because he was true about the identity of Jesus and right in his answer to Jesus' original question: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

So, too, anyone under the virus of sin leading to eternal death should be true and right about Jesus. That is everyone. They cannot get away *without* the true content about Jesus as their true hope, the right information about Jesus to personally embrace for eternal life.

In Peter's *affirmation*, we assume his understanding and acceptance, a consistent epistemological expectation throughout the New Testament, as the terms of personal salvation.

You Must Affirm It!: Confession

It was Peter's *affirmation*, built on the right knowledge about Jesus,

that elicited the blessing of heaven. Inclusivists too must uphold the personal affirmation of the identity of Jesus, *by all* people, as divinely revealed and required. Biblically, they cannot hide behind the potential safety of the non-availability of the gospel as an opening for another means of eternal salvation.

Not long after, Peter said it this way: "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). We are all to be inclusivists in terms of the offer of salvation, but exclusivists in terms of the condition of salvation. Shall we be very careful not to give the world a hope in a false prescription?

Just like we would not falsely rest hoping that a COVID-19 positive and plagued person may find

an alternate hope, we will extend the same mercy to spiritually ill people on the road to eternal death. If life-saving medicine is not available to the ill, we would push and proclaim, present and promote the availability *and* accessibility of healing to as many people as possible. What we won't offer is a false hope, that people can be rescued without knowing the only, right cure for eternal death.

In "The Rock" series of devotionals based on Matthew 16:13-18, Dr. Ramesh Richard examines the Lord Jesus Christ's claims about Himself in contrast with popular religions and philosophies of salvation. For the two previous articles, see Globe Crossing 2020 Issue 2 and 2021 Issue 1 at reach.org/resources/media-library. The next Globe Crossing will feature the final installment.

When does RREACH stop being RREACH?

That's the question we had to discuss and decide during the last year. The answer was simple: When Ramesh Richard's personal proclamation of God's Word is no longer possible or needed.

RREACH began 34 years ago to serve as the implementation vehicle for amplifying and multiplying his personal gifting and calling. Each proclamation engagement proves a sacred stewardship. Whether speaking to a few or thousands, Ramesh strives to present God's Word with spiritual fullness and biblical faithfulness. "Reduced" this year to video conferencing, he has addressed groups of fewer than 20 and more than 1,000. As the world begins to breathe again, he carefully considers in-person engagements for the right audiences and purposes.

Themes from Life

Speaking subjects emerge from current events processed through Dr. Richard's personal study pattern. He began the year in Psalm 90. "We can't *outlast* our deaths, but we can *outlive* our lives," he shared in the first staff gathering of 2021. He developed this theme into a full-length

Dallas Seminary chapel talk. A similarly themed, in-depth article prompted this note from a recently widowed friend:

Dear Ramesh, just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated your thoughtful, profound exposition of Psalm 90 in the RR Crossing magazine. I really received a lot from it. I'd never studied Psalm 90 that deeply before. So, thanks again.

A set of weekly, short-format devotional videos have been released on the subject, too. (If you are interested, visit Welling. Life and note the "Outlive" series of videos.)

The heaven-going of two significant people in Ramesh's life rendered Psalm 90 a timely encouragement. Joyce Perry, Bonnie Richard's mother and Dr. Richard's "mother-in-love," was called home after a long life of unashamed witness. A few months later, Dr. Samuel



"Ramesh, old age is doable," Dr. Richard's mentor Dr. Kamaleson told him.



Joyce Perry and her husband welcomed Ramesh to the U.S. nearly 50 years ago, and then their daughter Bonnie became his wife.

Kamaleson, one of Ramesh's mentors and the most formative influence of his teenage years, followed. He spoke in person at Dr. Kamaleson's memorial service and co-hosted an online memorial event celebrating this august leader in modern Christian history. Dr. Kamaleson's testimony of ending well gave encouragement through tragic news in days to come.

Shocking reports about a well-known and gifted friend spurred many to ask difficult and grief-filled questions. This led to on-line speaking engagements with hundreds of leaders hearing Dr. Richard speak about the pitfalls of Christian leadership. He emphasized the need for careful but not fearful navigation of life in God's service.

Global Communion Service

Two events during Passion Week characterized the scope of Dr. Richard's proclamation ministry. He delivered the message for "One Body, One Blood," a new online Good Friday communion service attended by more than 400 individuals from 35 countries. Contact us if you would like to view the talk.

That Saturday evening in Dallas he spoke via videoconference for a Resurrection Sunday sunrise service in South Asia. The congregation was made of 20 people new to faith in the Lord Jesus and a few of their pre-Christ family members.

Thank God for these believers fresh to the faith. Trust Him for their loved ones who have yet to embrace true salvation.

Pastor-training Leadership

Any mention of Ramesh's personal proclamation must include Dallas Seminary, where he taught Cross Cultural Apologetics and Worldview Evangelism during the spring semester. He also participated in the inauguration of the 97-year-old seminary's

sixth president, Dr. Mark Yarbrough. The seminary's partnership with RREACH's seminal Dallas Global Proclamation Academy initiative has led to new ideas and dialogues in the critical area of pastor-training worldwide.

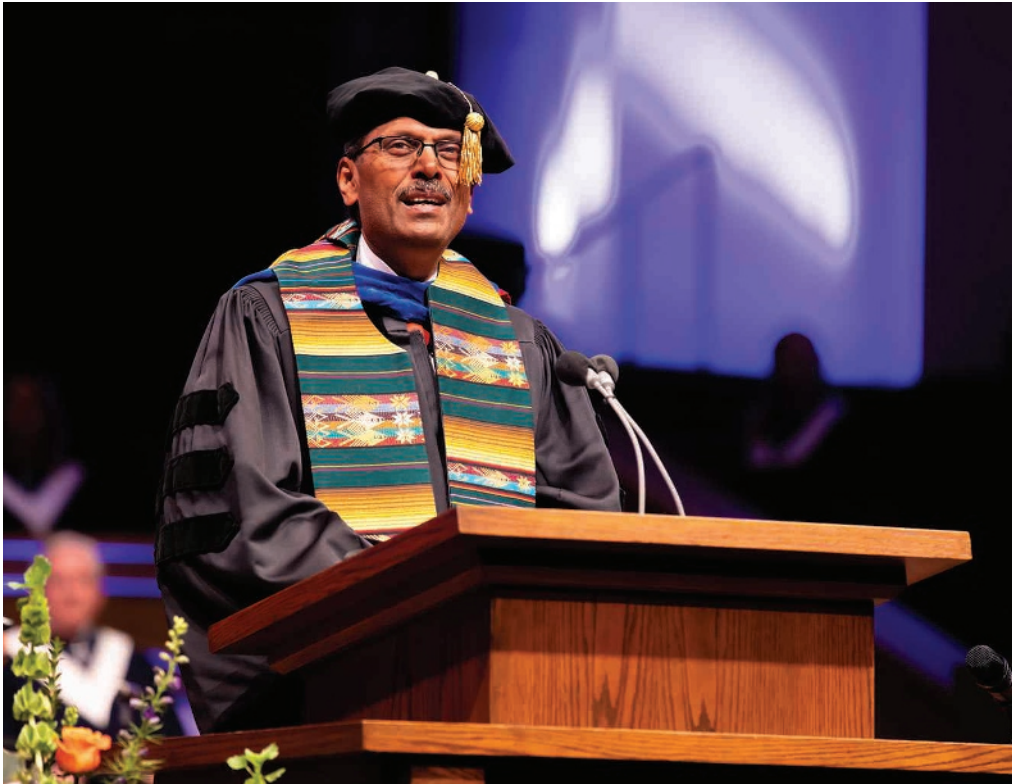
Ramesh dedicates much time, thought and leadership to strengthening those who proclaim God's Word on local fronts globally. Conversations with leaders in formal, non-formal and informal pastor-training are addressing the need for increased quality, availability of resources, speed of delivery and cost-effectiveness of training.

Thank God for this momentum and trust Him for innovative and effective application.

continued



Ramesh provided the main talk for the first global attempt to unite believers around the Lord's Table.



Dr. Richard joyfully served as herald at the inauguration of Dallas Theological Seminary's new president, Dr. Mark Yarbrough.

continued from previous page

One Billion INDIVIDUALS

"Individuals" is a prominent word in RREACH's vision statement. It is possible to overlook that people are individuals on unique journeys towards salvation. While the *scattered* seed-sowing of God's Word is important, its *targeted* presentation is critical for feedback and dialogue.

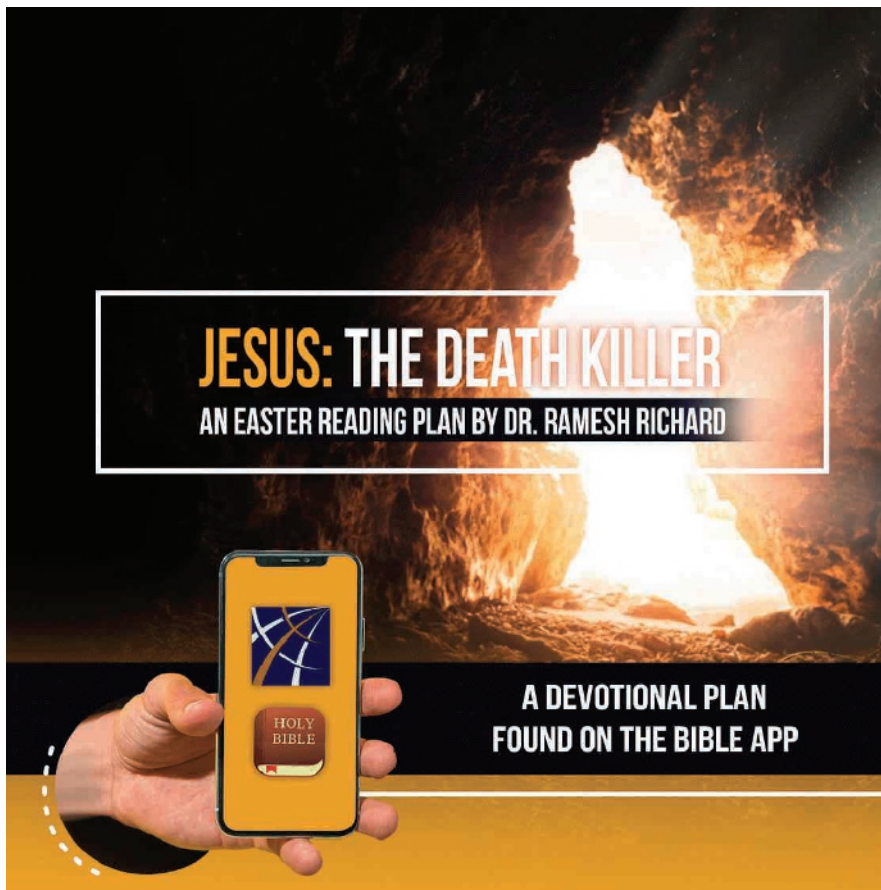
On the eve of a week-long engagement in New York, Ramesh met a young post-doctoral student whose work focuses on the

inclusion of disabled individuals. Her argument that all must be treated alike draws from her religious premise that we are all part of God's creation.

Dr. Richard took time to engage with her, introducing the Bible's conviction that not only are humans created by God (as are animals and, indeed, everything), we are created *in God's image*. She attended the International Assembly where he spoke the next day to continue the conversation and described Jesus as her favorite prophet.

He invited her to listen to a recent message by his son Robby concerning the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

Thank God for these opportunities to proclaim God's saving Word! Trust Him for more opportunities to offer the light and joy of the Lord Jesus Christ to as many as we can before it is too late.



YouVersion Bible Reading Plans

The popular YouVersion Bible app houses hundreds of reading plans for users to discover and complete at their own pace. RREACH has used articles and books by Dr. Richard to create six published Bible reading plans (all of which have been or are being produced in Spanish and Portuguese, in addition to English). Two of the reading plans are adapted from his Intentional Life book series and are companions to the LEADERREACH curriculum

on the same topics. Latest reports show that 15,318 people have subscribed to one of Dr. Richard's reading plans and 9,280 have already completed one. The average user rating of these plans is 4.65 out of 5 stars.

A new reader wrote to tell us how the reading plan "Jesus: The Death Killer" had resonated with him after his own near-death experience. We were able to thank him for reading and encourage him to explore other RREACH resources.

Global pandemic.

Closed borders.

Taxed infrastructures.

Weary people.

These continued realities stifle much. But not God's Word. It endures forever, and it accomplishes what He purposes (1 Peter 1:25, Isaiah 55:11). Trusting in these truths with thankful hearts, RREACH and Dr. Richard continue to look for new and better ways to amplify God's Word globally. Over the past several months, we have presented material in new ways to faithful friends and broader audiences around the world.

Thank God for these YouVersion plans. Trust Him to lead others to discover the transformative power of God's Word as a result.

Articles

In the first half of this year, RREACH released a series of six articles by Dr. Richard specially tailored to our current context, like "The Passionary" (an Easter reflection). Perhaps his broadest audience came after *Christianity Today* online published

continued



If you'd like a physical copy of this article, we'd be happy to mail it to you. Reach us at +1-800-RREACH World or info@rreach.org to request one.

continued from previous page

"Should We Still Be Called 'Evangelicals?'"
In a climate fraught with misunderstanding and division, this helpful (and global) take on Christian labels was thought-provoking for many.

Thank God for the insight and exposure He has granted Ramesh Richard. Trust Him for many to be encouraged by these and additional articles on the Christian life and witness.

We are happy to send you links to any of the following or you can find them online at rreach.org/articles:

- "Will Things Ever Be the Same?" (A New Year's Reflection)
- "Should We Still Be Called 'Evangelicals?'" (*Christianity Today*)
- "The Passionary" (An Easter Reflection)
- "Moral Failure: Absence of Salvation? Presence of Apostasy?"
- "Outlive: A Walk with Moses (Psalm 90)"
- "GodLife" devotional articles

Evangelism Efforts

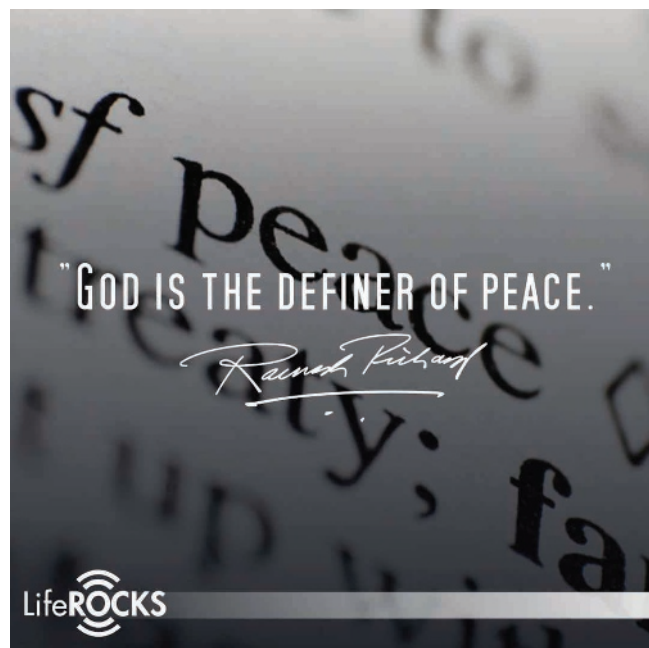
Sharing the good news about the Lord Jesus Christ has always been the lifeblood of Dr.

Richard's ministry. This year RREACH hopes to lay out an evangelism project that encompasses all of RREACH's outreach projects with a renewed emphasis on engagement with pre-Christians.

One of the key ways RREACH ministers to unbelievers is through LifeRocks, a media channel with timely video messages from Dr. Richard to encourage spiritual exploration and growth. Our current campaigns include:

- "21 Days of Wisdom and Peace"
- "The Hell Project"
- "You 2.0"
- "Combat Corruption"

As of early July 2021, our total audience for these campaigns reached 27,000. Dr. Richard and the



More than 6,100 individuals subscribed to (and many more have viewed) our Combat Corruption online pre-evangelistic series.

team are working hard to record additional videos and create compelling webpages for those who will view the content and opt for additional conversation or involvement.

Since follow-up is one of the most important elements of our evangelism efforts, RREACH has partnered with Global Media Outreach, another media non-profit, whose focus is improving quality engagement with responders. This collaboration has allowed counselors to begin important conversations with people searching for answers through LifeRocks talks.

One person wrote about crippling anxiety. Another wrote desperately seeking forgiveness. A third was battling heavy guilt for a secret sin. In all three instances, counselors were able to answer with truth from God's Word, and as a result of the conversations, each person expressed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

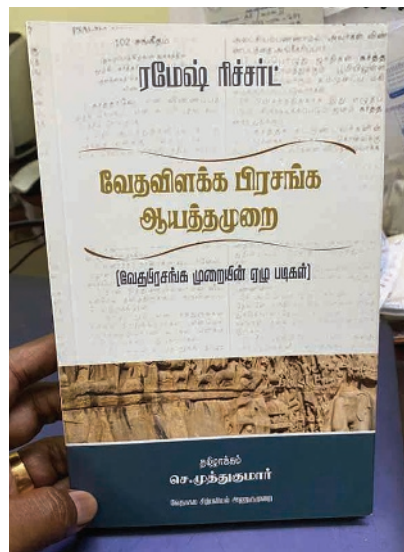
Thank the Lord with us for these opportunities. Trust Him for direction and favor as we develop a breakthrough, multi-year evangelism project.

Devotional Resources & More

Over the past few months, the RREACH team has also focused on producing resources for both the lay and pastoral leader. This includes the devotional book *My Spiritual Path Notebook*, a spiritual life journal for pre-Christ individuals. We also released a special translation of *Preaching Expository Sermons* into Tamil, Dr. Richard's mother tongue, accompanied by a dedication ceremony on March 3, 2021.

Thank God for these resources. Trust Him to continue to use them to encourage spiritual health worldwide.

We thank God for accomplishing His purposes in and through us, and we ask Him and trust Him to continue blessing our actions as we spread God's Word far and wide.



"I don't have words to express my joy..." said an Asia Theological Association leader after the dedication of Preparing Expository Sermons in Tamil. "We are confident that this book will be of great blessing to our Tamil people."

For the past 18 months, physical health—or lack thereof—has been constantly before us. And yet the deeper issue of the spiritual health of nearly 8 billion people has always driven RREACH's ministry training initiatives.

Dr. Richard's conviction that ***pastoral health affects church health and church health affects societal health*** has spurred three decades of non-formal training efforts, chiefly

- the founding of Trainers of Pastors International Coalition [TOPIC], 1997-
- the piloting of the Dallas Global Proclamation Academy (GProAcademy), 2005, and national GProAcademies, 2011, and
- the convening of the historic Global Proclamation Congress for Trainers

of Pastors (GProCongress), 2016.

Now, RREACH's pastor-training efforts have reached critical mass in both attracting global attention to the desperate need and stimulating efforts to work together to meet the need. By God's direction and empowerment, our efforts toward pastoral health are increasing.

2021 Global Integrated Report

The first iteration of the Global Proclamation Commission (GProCommission)

concluded with a four-year follow-up effort to the 2016 GProCongress. The GProCommission sought to extend the goals of the Congress and capture in statistical form the number of pastors being trained around the world by various pastor-training organizations, institutions, churches and individuals.

Our goal was to see the deficit of trained pastors reduced by 5%, or by about 100,000 pastoral leaders.

In order to cover errors in duplication, replication or exaggeration, the GProCommission set out to document 500,000 pastoral leaders better trained for pastoral ministry and then apply an extremely conservative 80% error rate to meet the goal of 100,000 better-trained pastoral leaders. By July 1, 2020, we received definitive training reports that, even after applying the error rate, present over **280,000** better-trained pastoral leaders between 2016 and 2020. RREACH acknowledges the immense work of the numerous trainers of pastors across non-formal, formal and informal sectors who contributed their reports. This report presents their fruit.

The Global Integrated Report, available at www.GProCommission.org,



GLOBAL INTEGRATED REPORT:
DATA, COST, PARTNERS, IMPACT
Initiatives & Activities in the Training of Pastors Worldwide
2016-2020
(for public release mid-2021)

The Global Integrated Report offers a look at how much, what kind and where pastor training is taking place around the globe. If you'd like a hard copy of the report, call us at +1-800-RREACH World to request one!

includes data, initiatives, costs and impacts gathered from 2016 to 2020. It is available to pastor-trainers around the world for their priorities, focus and activities for the next decade of work to further reduce the deficit of trained pastors. This 2021 report reinforces the great need and opportunity in pastor-training, especially where Christ's Church is growing.

Thank God with us for the incredible faithfulness of pastor-trainers around the globe to be used of God to train thousands of pastoral leaders, thus reducing the deficit of trained pastors and contributing to spiritual health everywhere. Trust God to continue to produce fruit for pastor-training through this effort.

GProCommission 2021-2030

The work of the GProCommission through 2020—100,000 pastoral leaders better trained—sets the foundation for the next decade. One trainer spoke of how he went from training 50 pastors to 7,000 pastors as a result of the vision of the last decade.

While the first decade reduced the deficit of

trained pastors by 5%, we now seek to further reduce that deficit by 30% to 50%—by focusing on pastor-trainers as the human core of pastoral effectiveness. At two major events this summer, Dr. Richard shared the vision for this decade-long project. On July 1, 2021, over a thousand trainers of pastors from across the world received it with enthusiasm.

Many expressions of mutual encouragement affirmed God's favor on this work. One attendee, originally from C**n*, commented, "Thank you for the invitation so that I had the chance to hear the vision for the next ten years, which is so exciting and encouraging, also with many challenges, of course. I shared it with [my wife] ... She fully agrees 'Healthy Pastor, Healthy Church, Healthy Society,' and she said, 'I am in!'"

The GProCommission 2021-2030 serves as the pastor-training wing of RREACH to steward the possibilities and opportunities of 30+ years of relationships, experience and information. It is our goal



At a June 26 dinner in Dallas, Dr. Richard held up this sign, which sits in the entryway of our Dallas offices. ONLY GOD is a RREACH core operational value. We thank Him for all He has done over the last decade (RREACHABLE 2020) and trust Him for the next (RREACHABILITY 2030). A soft copy of the report is available upon request.

to connect, unite and strengthen **100,000 pastor-trainers** to train **1 million pastoral leaders**.

Thank God for the Bride of Christ, His Church. Trust God for this substantial decade-long project into which we invite all who love her and desire her to be healthy and beautiful.



RREACH

Ramesh Richard Evangelism and Church Health

17110 Dallas Parkway | Suite 230 | Dallas, TX 75248

+1-972-528-6100 or +1-800-RREACH-World

Info@rreach.org

www.rreach.org

www.LifeRocks.org

www.PastorReach.org

PRSR 1ST CLASS

US POSTAGE

PAID

DALLAS TX

PERMIT NO. 407

The Rock Vs. Inclusivism *by Ramesh Richard*

Thanking God for _____. Trusting God for _____.

VISION

RREACH envisions changing the way One Billion Individuals think and hear about the Lord Jesus Christ, to the glory of the Father, and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

MISSION

A Global Proclamation Ministry, RREACH implements God's calling and gifting on Ramesh Richard to promote the Lord Jesus Christ worldwide.

STRATEGY

We accelerate our global impact by the wise use and mix of personal proclamation, media outreach, and ministry training to evangelize opinion leaders, strengthen pastoral leaders, and reach large numbers of individuals, especially of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

THEME VERSE

"And many will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God."

— Luke 13:29

Thank you for helping us to RREACH into large numbers of desperate souls around our broken world with lasting solutions.



It is a deep encouragement to join with likeminded ministry friends in prayer at the beginning of each week. Consider joining this group at 8:30 USCDT each Sunday evening for 45 minutes. Write to us at info@rreach.org if you'd like details for joining the call. We thank God for this opportunity to pray for the world each week.