

## NATIONAL GPAS

“The GPA taught me that my mission is not to preach my own words, my own will or my own frustrations to God’s people, but to preach the Word of God. It has given me a new orientation, a new goal to reach: instilling the Word of God in the life of people. It helped me to think about my ethics.”

Pastor M, GPA Mali delegate

### GPA Mali

Mali is plagued by poverty, political turmoil and infectious disease. Average life expectancy is 55 years. Ninety-five percent of the population identifies as Muslim. And only one pastor from Mali

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## PRAYING AGAINST TERRORISM? TERRORIST SAUL, EVANGELIST PAUL

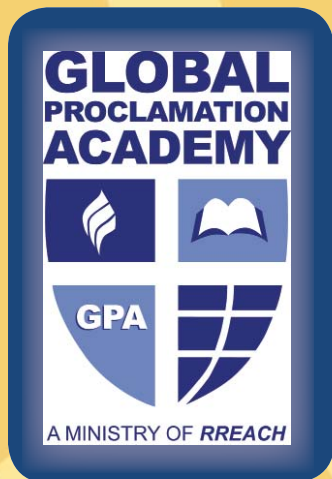


When I heard of the 21 young men beheaded on a Libyan beach by the savagery of ISIS, I was overcome, like you, with deep sorrow. Their ages and complexion resembled my own two sons. It felt like our Ryan and Robby were kneeling at the feet of their captors for nothing else than their traditional community connections with the Coptic Church. Indeed these 21 victims had families much like Bonnie and myself. Understandably, their loved ones wailed inconsolably over the premature demise of sons, brothers and fathers murdered by professionally videographed barbarism.

The modern world, while incredulously viewing ISIS through the lens of Christian Crusader comparisons from the Middle Ages, could not stand the bloodthirstiness demanded by the religious behavior of their victors. World leaders continue to consider what might be effective response to restrain the bestiality. Egypt, the parent-nation of the victims, took quick, short, decisive action. Vested countries in the region are reacting in their own ways. The West discusses and debates present and future implications of any

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# Praising, Praying, Preparing: Dallas GPA 2015



“Praising, praying and preparing” expresses the attitude of RREACH as the 10th annual Dallas Global Proclamation Academy (June 7-27, 2015) approaches.

Dr. Richard and staff praise God for 10 years of faithfulness to this program, which seeks to bring 25 strategically chosen pastoral leaders from 25 countries to the campus of Dallas Seminary for three intense weeks of high-level training and relationship building.

At the same time, they are praying and preparing for the 32 pastors, five from countries not previously

represented at the Dallas GPA, who have been accepted to the 2015 Dallas GPA.

Friends of RREACH can join in the “praising, praying and preparing” in some specific ways this year.



**Praising:** By participating in the Dallas GPA and meeting the pastors! Plan to attend a Global Impact lunch on a week day during the Dallas GPA, and especially the graduation banquet on Saturday, June 27.



**Praying:** Visit and subscribe to [www.pray4rameshrichard.wordpress.com](http://www.pray4rameshrichard.wordpress.com). Staff strives to update this site two-three times a week with prayer requests and updates.

We are also seeking ministry partners who are available to give special, focused, concentrated prayer covering for the Dallas GPA. Would you consider committing to this? For those willing to serve in this capacity, we are asking for the following commitment: Pray for the delegates regularly. We will send a schedule of visa appointments and updated



needs periodically, requests once a week during May, and updates three times a week during the Academy via email.



**Prepare:** We have partnership opportunities available that range from volunteering to hosting a pastor to financially underwriting an activity or meal.

Those interested in participating in any way should call the RREACH offices at (972) 528-6100 or email [edie@rreach.org](mailto:edie@rreach.org) for more information about needs and opportunities. 📧



counteractions.

**In all of this, how should we think about this cold, cruel and callous depravity of certain members of the human race? What should the individual Christian believer do?**

Just at this time, I was in the Imprecatory Psalms for my devotional feedings (Ps. 138, 140, etc.), having finished the awful Psalm 109 not too long before that. An imprecatory psalm calls for severe judgment on God's enemies. It's when the psalmist freely invokes divine vengeance, ghastly and dreadful (cf. Ps. 69:22ff). And I was torn on the inside. Having viewed pictures of Iraqi kids who were the age of my grandkids crucified by ISIS, I naturally developed a very human rage along with sorrow. Should I pray these imprecations on the terrorists? Not that I had executive power to carry out my feelings, but decisive, vengeful destruction of these enemies seemed instinctive and just felt right.

Except I had to pause in reflection as I went further in the Bible to the New Testament.

The One I believe (and the 21 Egyptians

followed) *predicted* the hatred of the world toward His followers (John 15:18–26). Believers and followers were to expect hatred as the normal response to bearing witness to their Lord. Although He was finally crucified, he *preached* something other than vengeance: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matt. 5:44); “Bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you” (Luke 6:28, ESV). Hence, there is a prescribed response to persecution, physical or otherwise, by our Lord and Leader. Finally, He *practiced* what He preached in his death cry: “Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34, NET). A disciple is not greater than his teacher, neither the servant than his Lord.

So here we have Jesus' forgiveness of persecutors—an unnatural, even supernatural response, and a potential contradiction of the psalmist's curses against them—our natural instincts. What am I to do in this Old Testament and New Testament quandary theologically *and* existentially, since Jesus seems to effectively cancel and then replace the spirit and content of the psalmist's

imprecation? Theologically, I know that the days of each martyrs' life were ordained. Existentially, I know that my contemporary sensitivities to violence and victimization have been largely shaped by Christianity, or I might sympathize with human butchers. This issue must be studied theologically *and* applied existentially where the connection creates the challenge.

Perhaps there is no other place where the Bible's feature of “incremental revelation” (theologians call it “progressive revelation,” but the Bible doesn't morally progress) becomes more necessary for its interpretation before applying both the psalmist's imprecatory prayers of malediction and Jesus' invocation of benediction on enemies.

Here's how I make sense of both our Lord's prescriptions and the psalmist's expressions.

**1. The Lord Jesus trumps the psalmist for which model a Christian should follow today** (cf. 1 Pet. 2:19ff). Jewish behavior might follow the Old Testament, but Christians have no option in this personal matter of following Jesus. In fact, the only distinction between our view of

the Christian terrorists of the Middle Ages and Muslim terrorists now is the simple and clear question of approval. Would the founder of the Christian faith, Jesus Christ of Nazareth (crucified young), have approved of Christian Crusader activity in His name? The answer is an unequivocal “no” by all Christians—all Christians now, that is. The Crusaders erroneously conquered in Jesus’ name, reflecting neither His loving spirit nor His teachings toward enemies. Christians today can condemn Crusader atrocities as evil without fear of reprisal by other Christians. And yet, all current terrorists see an integral connection between the teachings of their God-sent prophet (who died at 62 of illness) and their religiously approved violence today. They would answer an unequivocal “yes” to the founder’s approval of their barbarity. Muslims dare not call their terrorist brothers wrong because they will dearly pay for their opinion. An Arab Israeli friend remarked, “We see their ideology (their founder and system) as evil, and its follower as victims.” I hastened to add, “Christian ideology (our founder and His system) is good though its followers can be evil.”

**2. The founder of our faith, Jesus the Christ, *commanded us to love, pray for and bless enemies as our personal response to persecution and martyrdom.***

**a. Love your enemies because they are human beings in the image of God (albeit depraved, deprived and demonized).** They, too, were once normal kids bringing pleasure to their parents on playgrounds near war zones where they became indoctrinated and radicalized.

**b. Pray for (not against) enemies, that they come to know God’s eternal salvation and receive forgiveness from the Savior, whose upcoming universal judgment will prevent their eternal salvation.** They will be eventually caught in their own traps, unstoppably pulverized and hurled into eternal hell, since that is what they (and we) deserve (cf. 2 Thess. 1:7–9; Rev. 6:10).

**c. Bless your enemies, since there is a chance that they could be redeemed by our Jesus-like responses to their wickedness.** The Old and New Testaments ask us to do good to our enemies—caring for a needy enemy (Prov. 25:21–22; Rom.

12:20). The New Testament commands us to “*never* pay back evil for evil” (Rom. 12:17, NASB, emphasis added).

So vengeance is out.

**3. Imprecations—cursing or condemning persecutors—may be permissible in the Old Testament yet are without prescription in the New Testament.** We should avoid turning the psalmist’s practice into spiritual prescriptions just as we necessarily avoid bending the wisdom of the Proverbs into unconditional promises. But since we certainly claim the psalmist’s other expressions for our spiritual life (e.g., Ps. 23), is there any application of imprecatory psalms to the people of God today?

It is critical to overlay a New Testament lens on everything (after all we are *Christians*) in order to set certain conditions for any imprecatory prayer. Even when made on behalf of others persecuted for righteousness’ sake (Matt. 5:10), we need to remember some important limitations.

**a. That we hate evil and sin, as God does, even in ourselves.** For example, do we detest the moral warfare, the spiritual terrorism occurring via highly sexualized,

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West-produced entertainment? Do we abhor all that is evil and cling to all that is good (Rom. 12:9)? We must reject complacency concerning some aspects of evil, use every legal means to express our abhorrence of evil and possibly restrain it. There is good and evil, right and wrong, truth and falsehood. We curse all evil and despise all evil behavior anywhere—including inside ourselves.

**b. That in this prayer we avoid copying the religious sins of our enemies.** The only One who could have legitimately prayed an imprecation did not, even as He was being crucified. Imprecation may be justifiable by a truly innocent victim, but only by one who is entirely blameless (cf. Ps. 143:2, 12). While prayer against enemies is an understandable reaction only for a righteous person, we ought to be very careful! There is none righteous except One. No biblical martyr desires to curse his murderer and fall into the murderer's own sin. If we respond rightly when persecuted for righteousness' sake, we are blessed with the kingdom of heaven and are promised the reward of heaven (Matt. 5:10–12). And it is possible and appropriate to be angry, but not sin (Eph. 4:26). So

prayerful, anger-filled desperation toward God about those who destroy human life is acceptable. These prayers are not sinful and are often psychologically healthy. Yet, these serious imprecatory prayers must neither be deployed stupidly in personal relationships that break down due to our own selfishness and sin, nor employed against those inside the Christian circle, nor—because of Jesus—even in this selfish manner against those outside the Christian family. Though we may be opposed by Christian or non-Christian enemies, imprecatory verbal expressions, appealing to God's justice now or in the future, are only proper against those abusing the people of God for their faith convictions—not for random breaks of human relationships.

**c. That we wait, knowing that God is not blind or unjust.** We leave it to God to punish evil, in His own way, in His time and for His reputation. Now because of an existential pause on this theological subject, we might think imprecation is the dominant notion in the Psalms. Fifteen of the 150 psalms carry imprecation in them, and it is God's name, God's vengeance, and God's action of direct and swift justice

being requested by His people in misery. Further, imprecatory prayers are just that—verbally expressive *prayers*. “I am [in] prayer,” says the psalmist (Ps. 109:4, NASB), even as he requests God to do some shocking things to his enemies—consume them, blind them, break their babies. He could have killed his enemy but instead took the prayerful way out, appealing in raw fashion to God's cosmic justice. Elsewhere, a prophet in anger wishes God's necessary vengeance (Jer. 11:20). The psalmist and the prophet, however, would not take matters in their own hands, but left them in God's hands. Actually in the Old Testament (not just in the NT) God claims the right to vengeance (Ps. 94:1; Deut. 32:35, cf. Rom. 12:19; Heb. 10:30). So our supplications for natural, wishful vengeance must be *requests* for *divine* vengeance, not *actions* out of *personal* vendetta. They are *predictive* (near and far fulfillment) and not for immediate action. We pray for the full defeat of enemies (which takes judgment) and the soon destruction of their plans (whatever it takes). We pray without hatred of individuals, but do pray for God's judgment against their plans, and

on those who propagate them, whether leaders or groups of terrorists. We pray for the salvation of enemy-individuals and the destruction of enemy-ideologies. While Christ's martyrs experience human wrath, the murderers of Christians will experience divine wrath for their sins, sooner or later. We pray for the worst thing that could happen (in their view)—trusting their Isa as Yesua, Savior God—all the while knowing it is the best thing that could happen to them (in God's view).

**d. That the psalmist, when he asks for the ability to cut off his enemies, is speaking as the royal representative of his covenant nation and Davidic dynasty, and Christian believers or churches are not.** This is a crucial point at which we separate the imprecatory behavior of the psalmist as an individual in gloom from the psalmist as king, who needs to keep his family line alive. Consequently, we separate the behavior of Christians and the church toward their enemies (love, pray, bless) from that of one's nation and their militaries (pre-emptive or just war) against all enemies of any state. We do not confuse church with state, the New Testament with the Old

Testament, the believing individual with the unbelieving community. We do not equate any other nation with Israel (OT, present, or future Israel). We are for justice, but without vengeance and against revenge. Military action *before* enemies strike us is an act of life, rather than revenge taken after an attack. We support the state in matters of justice and defense, but will not get so close to power that it blinds us in baptizing all state actions as Christianly. When the state trespasses from being a just defender of its citizens, the church functions as its conscience in a prophetic tone, note and role. Our enemies for whom we pray, unfortunately for us, do fuse their "church and state" (a fusion to which Christians are tempted) into a theocratic state and fall into the violent stupor of a death cult with a genocidal vision.

**e. That we are willing to freely suffer for the Gospel.** While we accept that our enemy might cut our head off as we bring them the Gospel, we are unwilling to give declared killers the freedom to carry out their terrorism. We support a military response in self-defense of all citizens (Christians and non-Christians) as a moral, *governmental* obligation. Nations should

not wage war in the name of peace, but can go on the offense for the sake of self-defense. Although terrorists are made in the image of God, they have declared and implemented prior decisions to take human life (also made in the image of God). Self-defensive, pre-emptive action by nations is mandatory to prevent further murderous bloodshed. I support such action through a theological framework of justice, peace and life: While I am free to get my head cut off while following my Lord, I am not free to tell nations to follow my Lord's pattern of restraint since national self-defense for *everyone's* protection is a moral obligation. Offense in the cause of self-defense, and only for the sake of self-defense, is quite just. History is filled with examples, however, of those who treaded this tension and paid with their lives before the Gospel could take root and flourish for the common good of all. Christian missionaries often served the very people who were being economically raped by their colonizing nation. I also know Christian workers today who serve in the most challenging contexts with a conviction about dying to get the Gospel out. Such Christians are not seeking death (suicide or self-murder)

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Please pray for/about the following...

{ A P R I L 2 0 1 5 }

Sunday

Monday

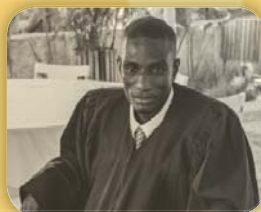
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



1  
Ramesh to be humble before God, sensitive to needs and have clear direction in all areas of life

2  
Key GProCongress meetings taking place in Bangkok, Thailand

3  
Volunteers to help make the Dallas GPA an exceptional experience for delegates

4  
Dr. Richard's physical health amid a demanding schedule and increased international travel

5  
**HE IS RISEN!**  
God to use Dr. Richard's preaching at Union Church in Hong Kong to encourage believers in their faith

6  
Travel mercies as Ramesh travels home from his Southeast Asia trip

7  
Good conversations with Media Outreach responders

8  
GPA Lebanon was rescheduled for later this year. Pray for all those working on national GPAs and on their preparations

9  
Effective distribution of Dr. Richard's books, talks and study guides

10  
Excitement for the GProCongress to build among pastoral trainers around the world

11  
Quality time for Ramesh and Bonnie's relationship

12  
Excellent implementation of GProCongress plans

13  
Ongoing connection between Dallas GPA and national GPA graduates for encouragement and counsel

14  
Wisdom as Dr. Richard evaluates many invitations to speak

15  
Ramesh to be humble before God, sensitive to needs and have clear direction in all areas of life

16  
GPA PERU: 4/16 – 25. Pray that 25 pastors will be connected, united and strengthened

17  
Protection for GPA PERU organizers and delegates and their families

18  
Spiritual, mental and physical health for the GProCongress team

19  
God's special favor on those GPA candidates for whom raising their half of the airfare to Dallas is difficult

20  
The Lord to shield and shine upon Ramesh and his family

21  
The Holy Spirit to work in the lives of those who have heard Ramesh proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ

22  
Praise for the opportunity for Dr. Richard to speak in a DTS class this semester

23  
GPA INDONESIA (originally scheduled for March) is now 4/23 – 5/2. Pray for all involved

24  
Efficiency and effectiveness as the RREACH staff serves

25  
Passion, clear vision, ongoing connection and protection for graduates as GPA PERU closes

26  
People in unreached areas to hear about the Lord Jesus Christ through Media Outreach

27  
Inspired program planning for the GProCongress

28  
The Lord to raise up additional partners in promoting and supporting the Congress

29  
GPA BENIN: 4/16 – 25. Pray that 25 pastors will be connected, united and strengthened

30  
Protection for GPA BENIN organizers and delegates and their families

GPA=Globa Proclamation Academy  
GProCongress=Global Proclamation Congress  
DTS=Dallas Theological Seminary





Please pray for/about the following...

{ M A Y 2 0 1 5 }

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



3

Strong prayer and financial support for the 2015 Dallas GPA



4

Protection and provision as Dr. Richard travels and makes additional international connections for the GProCongress



5

Opinion leaders who have heard Ramesh proclaim to trust the Lord Jesus Christ



6

Courage, wisdom and steadfastness for Dallas GPA graduates ministering around the world

GPA=Global Proclamation Academy  
GProCongress=Global Proclamation Congress

7

Excellent implementation of all the details for the Dallas GPA

1

Ramesh to be humble before God, sensitive to needs and have clear direction in all areas of life

2

The Lord to guard the ministries and families of the Dallas GPA delegates

8

Passion, clear vision, ongoing connection and protection for graduates as GPA BENIN closes

9

Praise God for His many blessings as Dr. Richard celebrates his birthday

10

This month's Media Outreach message to engage many in new thinking about the Lord Jesus Christ

11

Spiritual and physical preparation for Dallas GPA candidates

12

God's hand on the GProCongress team as they pray, plan and execute plans

13

Wisdom in utilizing social media for evangelism

14

GPA CAMBODIA: 4/16 – 25. Pray that 25 pastors will be connected, united and strengthened

15

Ramesh to be humble before God, sensitive to needs and have clear direction in all areas of life

16

Protection for GPA CAMBODIA organizers and delegates and their families

17

Master Coaches as they prepare for the upcoming Dallas GPA

18

Office equipment to function as needed during this high-demand Dallas GPA preparation season

19

Direction and protection for all those planning upcoming national GPAs

20

Word about the GProCongress to spread and excitement to grow among pastoral trainers

21

Insight, encouragement and perseverance for the RREACH staff

22

Logistics for the 2015 Dallas GPA to come together

23

Passion, clear vision, ongoing connection and protection for graduates as GPA CAMBODIA closes

24

Potential friends to be introduced to RREACH

31

Provision for all areas of Dr. Richard's ministry

25

The Lord to continue to provide balance between Dr. Richard's Global Proclamation Calling and Personal Proclamation Gifting

26

Total protection and global provision for the GProCongress

27

The Lord to help us to reach our goal of finding 40 table sponsors by June 27 for the 2015 Dallas GPA graduation dinner

28

Protection against spiritual attacks and for unity among the staff

29

The RREACH Board as, the Lord willing, they meet today and tomorrow

30

God's sustaining presence with all RREACH Board members and their families

Please pray for/about the following...

{ J U N E 2 0 1 5 }

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Ramesh to be humble before God, sensitive to needs and have clear direction in all areas of life	2 The GPA pastors to have safe travel, on-time flights, and all connections made from their countries to Dallas	3 All equipment at the RREACH office to work correctly	4 GPA pastors' spouses, children and families to be safe and well taken care of during this extended time away	5 For DTS as they finalize rooms, classrooms and menus in preparation for the arrival of the pastors	6 The staff to effectively coordinate last-minute details for the Dallas GPA
7 Dallas GPA, today through June 27. Pray that God will use Dr. Richard as he launches the GPA and for the pastors' hearts to be deeply changed	8 Dallas GPA Master Coaches to have safe travel and for God to use each of them to encourage the pastors	9 The Dallas GPA Global Impact lunches to inspire those who attend	10 God to protect Dr. Richard's health and physical resources	11 Dallas GPA pastors to remain healthy. Pray against any unforeseen medical emergencies	12 Praise the Lord for RREACH's faithful supporters	13 Host families to build lasting relationships with Dallas GPA pastors and each family to be encouraged by their visit
14 Churches to partner with RREACH by piloting a new curriculum, <i>Soul TransForMission</i> , based on Dr. Richard's book <i>Soul Mission</i>	15 Ramesh to be humble before God, sensitive to needs and have clear direction in all areas of life	16 The Dallas GPA pastors to continue to be spiritually challenged by the Master Coaches	17 The families and churches of the Dallas GPA pastors to function well in their absence	18 Protection against spiritual attacks and for unity among the staff	19 God to be glorified by all that RREACH does	20 The Lord to help us reach our goal of raising \$31.5m by 2020 for the GProCommission
21 The GPA Sunday night social to be a time of relationship building as the pastors reunite	22 Dr. Richard's books, talks and videos to reach and teach many throughout the world	23 Dr. Richard, that the Lord would give him the resources he needs to deliver the banquet address, especially after the three-week Dallas GPA	24 The Lord to expand RREACH's products, platforms and partnerships	25 Wide and deep penetration of the 2015 Media Outreach messages	26 All last minute details for the GPA graduation banquet	27 The Dallas GPA graduation dinner to be a wonderful time of glorifying God
28 Travel mercies as the Dallas GPA graduates return home	29 Wisdom, gratitude and humble confidence to make the right connections for the GProCongress	30 All projects to be fully funded according to God's will and make great impact worldwide	GPA=Global Proclamation Academy DTS=Dallas Theological Seminary	<p>The RREACH staff prays daily for all types of needs. It would be a blessing to pray for you. Yes YOU! Please send your prayer requests to <a href="mailto:mary@rreach.org">mary@rreach.org</a> and let us lift you up!</p>		

## 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.



# RREACH

Ramesh Richard Evangelism and Church Health

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[www.rreach.org](http://www.rreach.org)  
[www.thegpa.net](http://www.thegpa.net)  
[www.LifeRocks.org](http://www.LifeRocks.org)  
[www.facebook.com/liferocks.org](https://www.facebook.com/liferocks.org)  
[www.pray4rameshrichard.wordpress.com](http://www.pray4rameshrichard.wordpress.com)


## RESOURCE

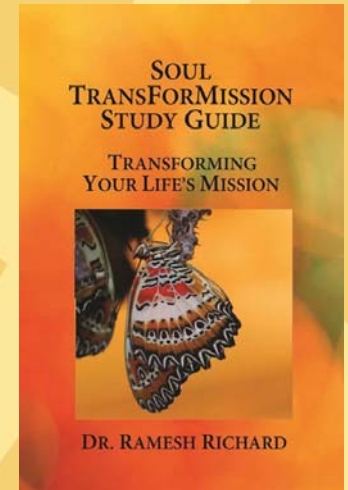
### Soul TransForMission

Are you looking for a study for your small group?  
Consider the new *Soul TransForMission* study  
guide based on  
Soul Mission, Dr.  
Richard's book about  
the ultimate mission  
of life. The study  
offers eight weeks of  
thought- and action-  
provoking questions,  
exercises and  
journaling prompts.  
For example:

• "MISSION  
answers the  
question, 'Why do  
you do what you  
repeatedly do?'  
What are the things  
you repeatedly do? Which would you like to  
maintain? Which would you like to delete?"

• "God made us so we can glorify God—so we  
can make Him look good through us. In what  
ways are you making God look good in your  
life?"

One study leader wrote to Dr. Richard, "I know  
you would be encouraged to see how your book  
is effecting the lives in our group." Contact us at  
[will@rreach.org](mailto:will@rreach.org) or 972-528-6100 to learn more! 





# National GPAs

Continued from page 1



GPA Mali graduates

has been able to attend the Dallas GPA. Yet while other countries were postponing their national GPAs, Pastor MD and a couple of GPA brothers from neighboring nations, with some help from RREACH, recently pulled off GPA Mali.

Pastor MD, Dallas GPA 2007, has endured great difficulty. At one point, RREACH wondered if he was still living. To bring a national GPA to his country, he patiently traveled thousands of miles—by bus, auto and on foot. As if the situation were not already “challenging and complex” enough, an Ebola outbreak struck the country just weeks prior. Organizers

were deeply discouraged.

Yet Pastor MD, co-facilitating pastors MN and MS, and 21 attending pastors successfully reached the culmination of GPA Mali, and have gone forth connected, united and strengthened, to proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ. “We were strengthened a lot by the RREACH office,” they said. “In the midst of all that we have learned, God is faithful to be depended on, for indeed, one will reach the end. May all the glory be to God!”

## GPA Cuba

Loosening travel/trade restrictions with Cuba have headlined U.S. news. Many wonder about long-term effects. For Cuba’s general population, however, life has remained appreciably unchanged. Among the 32 delegates to the national GPA (January 8–17, 2015), from all denominations and areas of the country, three have landline phones, 18 have cell phones and 10 have email (but no private Internet access). Because of the limited communication system, Pastor YCH, Dallas GPA 2013 graduate and the facilitator of GPA Cuba, extended tremendous effort to recruit delegates. (The pastors voted to keep in touch, going forward, primarily by



GPA Cuba graduates

telegram and then ground mail.)

Transportation is also an issue. Most lack personal means, so hitchhiking is common. Pastor YCH lives about 130 miles from Havana. Round trips usually take two full days, but it takes sometimes 36 hours merely to get there. While preparing for the national GPA, Pastor YCH hitchhiked round trip at least three times.

And in Cuba’s severely depressed economy, average income is \$18 per month. Yet some pastors believed the opportunity so important, they spent nearly one-and-a-half month’s income to attend—without knowing they would be reimbursed. They cried when their funds were returned.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 >>

# Partnership Opportunities

Every gift is strategic and precious. To partner financially with Dr. Richard and RREACH, please consider the following needs for the 2015 budget:

- General ministry: \$798,000
  - Global Proclamation Commission: \$3,661,000
    - \$25,000 to sponsor one national GPA
    - \$9,000 to sponsor one Dallas GPA pastor
    - \$4,500 to sponsor one pastor for the Congress
  - Media Outreach: \$125,000
  - Pastors Conferences: \$75,000
- Multiple giving methods are available.
- Check: Make payable to RREACH. Use attached envelope or send to RREACH address.
  - Online: Click “Give Online” at [www.rreach.org](http://www.rreach.org).
  - Wire transfer: Please contact Director of Operations David Brugger, [david@rreach.org](mailto:david@rreach.org), 972-528-6100 x 11 or 1-800-RREACH-World.
  - Stock, securities, etc.: Please contact David Brugger.



# Ramesh Richard's Itinerary and RREACH Events

## APRIL

- 1-2 GProCongress Meetings—Bangkok, THAILAND
- 4 Pre-evangelistic gathering—HONG KONG
- 5 Easter Sunday service, Union Church—HONG KONG
- 16-25 GPA PERU
- 23-30 GPA INDONESIA
- 27-28 GProCongress Meetings—Dallas, TX
- 29-30 GPA BENIN

## MAY

- 1-2 GPA INDONESIA
- 1-8 GPA BENIN
- 9 Dallas Theological Seminary Commencement—Dallas, TX
- 11-17 GProCongress mobilization—ASIA
- 14-23 GPA CAMBODIA
- 18-21 Moody Pastors Conference—Chicago, IL
- 24-26 Chinese Seminarian Conference, Gordon-Conwell Seminary—Boston, MA
- 29-30 RREACH Board Meetings—Dallas, TX

## JUNE

- 7-27 2015 Global Proclamation Academy—Dallas, TX
- 27 Global Proclamation Academy Graduation Dinner—Dallas, TX

Ramesh's role at Dallas Seminary is temporarily restructured in view of increasing demands of the 2016 Global Proclamation Congress for Pastoral Trainers. Instead of semester-long teaching, he now serves in worldwide representation of the seminary as Professor of Global Theological Engagement and Pastoral Ministries. In addition to RREACH's organizational demands, numerous speaking engagements and ministry projects continue to develop throughout the year. Due to the nature of overseas work, all dates, locations and formats are subject to change. Please pray for divine protection, competence and effectiveness on this servant and his family.



# There He Goes...Again: Personal Proclamation

In the last *There He Goes Again*, we left Dr. Richard in an African country without water, power, bags and clothes (after two transport breakdowns on the way to his guest house). We are glad to report that, as He promises, God supplied all Dr. Richard's needs there, as well as in the next three African countries on his itinerary. And Dr. Richard proclaimed the Name.

Malawian pastoral trainers, many national GPA graduates, were excited as Dr. Richard (adequately hydrated, although he did have to borrow a shirt) cast vision for the Global Proclamation Congress of Pastoral Trainers. They knew how instrumental pastoral training, in particular *Scripture Sculpture*, had been in their country.

Reception to the Congress vision in South Africa, Uganda and Ethiopia was similar. At the Addis Ababa session, 121 showed up instead of the expected 50.

In Uganda, Dr. Richard also spoke at two pre-evangelistic events. At the first, one woman's table of guests included a Muslim friend who didn't even like to sit with Christians! And yet everyone at that

during exam time. Concerned that many would skip the event in order to study, organizers prayed—and power across campus failed shortly before the event began. The team mobilized to gather

students in the one place power was available: at Ramesh Richard's open air, public venue. Even there, only the spotlight on the stage had power, but it focused attention on the message. Afterward, students flooded forward, using the light from their cell phone screens to help each other complete response cards.

Dr. Richard entered 2015 in an atmosphere of praise and blessing as the Watchnight service speaker for 2,000 students from all 27 states across India at the 60th anniversary of the University of Evangelical Students in

India. The experience refreshed his intention to encourage a spirit of praise and blessing in RREACH throughout the year amid pressing preparations for the



Ramesh's travels

table, including the Muslim friend, trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The other was held at a university



GProCongress. Indeed, more Congress mobilization trips and engagements followed that 10-day, four-stop year-opening sweep through India.

GProCongress responsibilities may have temporarily called him away from regular classroom engagement at DTS, but the Lord has been providing Dr. Richard numerous engagements with college-age students. Prior to the UESI 60th anniversary he delivered the December commencement address for Moody Bible Institute – Spokane, in Washington state. He spoke at a DTS chapel service in January and the following week was a keynote speaker during Moody Bible Institute's Founder's Week. Upheld by many RREACH intercessors, Ramesh said he felt great freedom to speak. His message on Finishing the Race and a last-minute live Moody radio interview received resoundingly positive reactions. (Please see page 19 for information on where to access the message and interview online.)

Last fall, Dr. Richard attended the farewell honoring outgoing head of the World Evangelical Alliance, Dr. Geoff Tunnicliffe, in New York City. Little did

he know that just months later, while attending a WEA International Leaders Forum in Honduras, he would be able to participate in the installation of his friend Bishop Efraim Tendero as the new WEA secretary general. Both Dr. Tunnicliffe and Bishop Ef, former head of the Philippines Council of Evangelical Christians, are warmly known to Ramesh, and have expressed personal and organizational support for the Congress.

RREACH friends may remember Bishop Ef significantly contributed to the GProCongress vision and mobilization until Typhoon Hai-yan hit the Philippines in late 2013, necessarily redirecting his ministry energies. Had that not taken place, Bishop Ef's commitment to the GProCongress may have precluded him considering the opportunity to lead the WEA. While Bishop Ef's direct influence on the Congress is missed, Dr. Richard considers his friend particularly suited for the role of leading the world's largest organized group of evangelicals. And God has provided many other gifted individuals to implement our anticipated Congress of up to 5,000 pastoral trainers in Bangkok, Thailand, in June 2016. Pray for the Program Leader to develop and

implement the GProCongress program.

As demands on Ramesh increase, he is even more intentional about spending time with his Lord, wife, Bonnie, and his family. A precious visit from daughter-in-law, Nathalie, and grandchildren Joshua (4) and Emma (2) in February lifted his spirit immensely.

"You speak words for all humanity," a high-caste pre-Christian businessman said to Dr. Richard during his early-2015 trip to India. Whether in planning the GProCongress or specifically proclaiming the message of the Lord Jesus Christ, God continues to speak through His servant "words for all humanity." Please continue to pray for Ramesh and his family, and for those who hear the Word he proclaims. 🙏



## 2014 Year in Review

If you would like a copy of this report, please request it on the enclosed envelope or email [ana@rreach.org](mailto:ana@rreach.org).

# National GPAs

Continued from page 12



GPA Cuba pastors in the classroom

Dallas GPA grad (2012) Pastor JCC of the Dominican Republic along with a GPA DR grad (January 2014) provided valuable help with the intensive teaching schedule. Pastor YCH, however, shouldered the main responsibility of facilitation. It was the first full-time program he had led. “He did an amazing job,” affirmed National GPA Coordinator Rajiv Richard. As for Pastor YCH, he said, “I’d be lying if I missed mentioning that this is the greatest experience I have had ever.”

A group of RREACH friends with hearts for Cuba not only stepped up to fund the



GPA Cuba pastors praying for one another

GPA, they sent a team to minister to 22 vibrant delegate wives, who gathered for training toward the end. The women remarked on the GPA’s uniqueness for both them and their husbands. Some said their husbands will never be the same.

“I can’t find the exact word that could describe the fellowship, union and connection accomplished,” reflected Pastor YCH. “Pastors left with a clear and demanding need to preach the Word—and only the Word—of God. And not only this, but they also went home with the best tools in their hearts and hands.” Plans for third-



RREACH friend ministering to Cuban pastors’ wives

and fourth-generation GPA training in Cuba have already been launched.

## GPA Cuba – a Different View

RREACH received the following note from one of the team who coordinated with us to minister in the wives’ segment of GPA Cuba. This is part of her story.

Dear Ramesh:

It was an amazing time for all of us—because God showed up in a remarkable way. The main speaker had a death of someone very close to her and was delayed for a day and





Ladies from Cuba and RREACH friends

a half, and we were asked to fill the gap. God guided our time and words and teaching, and it was remarkable in each way. Every teaching and group interaction far exceeded our expectations. The ladies and their reception of us and our teaching blessed us FAR GREATER than we could ever bless them. God was in each moment of the day, guiding and directing and giving wisdom at each turn. If the ladies were blessed, as they expressed to us, it was only because God was in charge! GLORY to God! Gloria a Dios!!!!

Thank you for the opportunity to step out of our comfort zone and be used by Him as He directed and NOT as we would have planned. He always has the best plans.

In addition, the men were raving about their teaching and spoke such gratitude for what RREACH brought to them. This was the biggest time they and their wives had had in their lives. They raved about the food—“wonderful, amazing, plenty!!!!” [NGPA Coordinator Rajiv Richard said this was the first time he had seen lobster served at a GPA graduation dinner. This was partially possible because the delicacy is somewhat easily accessible there.]

Everything that they experienced had the highest praise! But:

On the altar of our praise, there was no higher name spoken but Jesus.

Written with much love and gratitude for the ministry that RREACH and the Lord gave us in those days,

TC 📌



GPA Nicaragua pastors praying

### GPA Nicaragua

At the time of this writing, 25 pastors are wrapping up their national GPA experience, having learned Dr. Richard's Scripture Sculpture method for expository preaching. Many of the pastors are quite young and eager to become better equipped for the ministry. For the first time in the history of the GPA, we have a father attending with his son (both of whom will graduate from this NGPA), and one 22-year old pastor who has already planted five churches in Nicaragua. What an inspiration! 📌



but are willing to suffer death for the cause of facilitating earthly and eternal life. So until a legitimate war cuts off the head of the anti-Christian enemy, some Christians are committed to getting the Gospel to all in dangerous regions, before their heads are cut off. I presume if and when I face a deadly situation for bearing witness to my Savior, I would call on the One who enabled me with His strength through life (Phil. 4:13) to carry me through death and bring me safely to His eternal kingdom (2 Tim. 4:18).

**f. That we don't overlook caring for the defenseless and persecuted even as we deeply appreciate the precious public freedoms we experience.** We are pro-life wherever human life is—in the womb and outside, in our own nation and other nations. We will do good to all people, with special priority to the household of faith (Gal. 6:10). We believe and act in solidarity with the human family and in priority to the Christian family. We pray for supernatural *protection* for all facing persecution for their faith, for supernatural *strength* in their hour of extreme desolation, for supernatural *deliverance* in accordance with God's will, and supernatural *comfort* for their families.

An eminent Jordanian Christian leader told me that the word beheaded is actually used in the English Bible though not in the Arabic, and showed me how it is anticipated in Revelation 20:4. That dastardly act is overturned by the glorious expectation of our martyred brothers and sisters (along with their martyred school-age children), who had been “beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God ... [will come] to life and [reign] with Christ for a thousand years.”

Until then, we willfully follow the Lord's prescription publicly, even though we are naturally prone to the psalmist's imprecation against enemies privately. The former might be the witness needed for *one* terrorist to become an evangelist.

### **A Former Terrorist**

That's exactly what happened to terrorist Saul, who was in “hearty agreement” with the murderers while watching the execution of the first martyr (Acts 8:1). He “began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison” while “still breathing threats and murder against the

disciples of the Lord” (Acts 8:3; 9:1). Yet Stephen, after plainly speaking the truth (Acts 7) neither ranted nor raved against his persecutors while facing imminent death; it was the first-century terrorists who were enraged (v. 54). Instead, Stephen mimicked his Lord in not calling down immediate punishment. He requested forgiveness for them (Acts 7:60) as he saw the Lord Jesus in heaven (v. 55) and cried out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit” (v. 59). (The martyrs we know about expressed this same intense gentleness while facing death and anticipated seeing their Savior as far better than this life.) Eventually terrorist Saul would become evangelist Paul. (By the way, he too died by decapitation—beheading—an old, efficient way to silence political and religious dissidents.)

I have no guarantee that any violent jihadi would embrace Isa/Yesua as the Only God who saves him. Might there be one Saul in the making right now among the 21 murderers, even as he heard some martyrs whisper, “Lord, Jesus Christ”? One young victim, with eyes closed, discernibly sighed, “Ya, Rab Yesua,” (Oh, Lord Jesus). When Bonnie heard of these last words, she

immediately thought that the Lord Jesus appeared to them. We know they didn't practice a coordinated choreography for global witness, so she might have some support from Stephen's final earthly, vision of Jesus. Did they too, like Stephen, see the Lord Jesus in their last moments on earth transiting to their first moments in heaven?

Let me close this difficult article compelled only partially by my own theological and existential struggle. It also arose through counsel from Middle Eastern Christians who externally suspend their fears and with great difficulty internally sublimate their hate in order to lovingly serve the "the worst refugee crisis in modern history" (UN). They sacrificially minister to their pre-Christ neighbors in Jesus' name, spirit and teaching without knowing who might betray or murder them. If we pray at all for the persecuted and against the persecutors, we shall engage in sincere invocation for their salvation even as we extend Christian forgiveness. The mother of Tawadros Yousif, simply a village lady yet also mother of one of the Egyptian dead, reflected that uniquely Christ-like conclusion, saying, "I do not wish them evil. I pray for them,

that God may open their hearts and give them light." While our natural tendency beckons divine judgment, we should pray for the salvation of individuals first, and as soon as possible, by the Divine Savior before wishing for their immediate or final judgment by the Divine Warrior. We dare not forget that, like Saul, terrorists too can take refuge in Jesus, God's Son and Savior. Will God, in wrath, remember mercy for God's people (Hab. 3:2) and for the persecutor too? 🙏



To listen to Dr. Richard's message on Finishing the Race from Moody Bible Institute's Founder's Week, please visit [https://www.moodyconferences.com/con\\_mainPage.aspx?id=128473](https://www.moodyconferences.com/con_mainPage.aspx?id=128473). To hear his interview on Moody radio show, *Chris Fabry Live!* visit <http://www.moodyradio.org/brd/ProgramDetail.aspx?id=151349>.



REACH

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