



RAMESH RICHARD EVANGELISM
AND CHURCH HEALTH

A GLOBAL PROCLAMATION MINISTRY

Issue 1 | 2021



Previously, airplanes took him to his preaching and teaching destinations around the world. Since April 2020, itineration-by-internet is Dr. Ramesh Richard's new subnormal. Read more inside about the expected...and the unexpected.



R E A C H

Ramesh Richard Evangelism and Church Health

*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 ... & Pluralism

Are all salvation claims equally valid?



Dr. Ramesh Richard wrote the following, the second of four short devotionals

examining the Lord Jesus Christ's claims about Himself, for an online audience at GMO.org, a media outreach organization. We thought you might appreciate these insights too. Please pray that this series of devotionals will strengthen many in our hyper-pluralistic world.

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." Matthew 16:15-16

If you watch movies, you have probably heard the Lord Jesus' name used as an expletive. And if you have any connection to Jesus Christ or Christians, it's likely you cringe when you hear His name misused.

Has anyone tried using the names of other gods as expletives? It has proven quite dangerous. Worse than using Jesus' name as an expletive is the attempt by religious pluralism to undermine His identity as humanity's unique savior.

Many Salvation Truths?

As applied to human salvation, religious pluralism proposes many equal ways to salvation, with all of them valid for their respective followers.

When Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is," He heard a range of responses but deemed them all wrong. In contrast to error, He asked, "But who do you say that I am?"

One Salvation Truth!

Matching Jesus' "I am" question, Peter's answer begins with "You are," not with "I feel" or "we think." He says, "You simply are. You always have been and will always be." This is bedrock, singular truth, not a plural set of multiple errors.

The Rock Statement continues: the Son of Man is "the Son of the Living God." Jesus affirms His confession as not only real—the Son of Man is the Son of God—but true. In fact, heaven reveals the truth in that declaration (v. 17).

The Rock is Truth: You can't deny it!

It is not possible to ignore fact and deny truth. During national elections, insistence on fact and truth becomes evident and necessary. Progressive politicians and post-modern philosophers, who used to dismiss facts and truth as locally or personally constructed, vote against candidates whom they consider as not truthful. They check candidates' claims to see if they are citing facts and telling the truth!

When it comes to salvation-truth, people think there are many ways to God. Your way, my way, we all have our own ways, all right and valid. Much like ice-cream flavors, we all have our preferences.

But we are not pluralists when it comes to life-giving medicine. We don't advise doctors who write prescriptions about our favorites as equally valid as theirs, and ask the pharmacists to give us our preferred medication instead of the doctor's directive.

Notice the repetition of the definite article in Peter's confession. It is a determiner of meaning referring to and restricting particular nouns.

"You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Jesus is the anointed Messiah. He is also the Son. There is only one of this kind of a son. In His very being He is now, has been, and always will be the Son of the Living God.

This dialogue took place in lush Caesarea Philippi where numerous temples and superstitions of dead gods all absolutely claimed their worshippers. They even required human sacrifices.

So a pluralism of saviors is not new. Pagan worship and a plethora of religions are not new. Pluralism is the usual human situation, the fallen world condition.

However, to a monotheistic Jewish audience, there was only one Living God, and this Jesus, the Son of Man, Peter confesses, is the Only Christ, the Only Son of the Only Living God. If Jesus, as the Son of Man, shared the nature of man, as the Son of God He shares in the nature of God.

That's fact, truth and reality. Only One is the Son.

We cannot be arrogant about this Rock. At a social level, all humans are different. Each is worthy of respect. We are sociological pluralists.

But at the point of salvation, each human being humbles himself and herself to accept whom God has sent to be the Savior of humanity. Jesus is worthy of our respect and trust. Jesus dismisses alternate ways to God as invalid and welcomes any who come to Him as unique, personal and eternal Savior.

The first fatality of pluralism is truth. And the first casualty of truth is pluralism.

RREACHØ is ground zero for RREACH. Ground zero is defined by Merriam-Webster as “the very beginning; ‘square one.’” 2020 marked a definite return to the very beginning and square one of RREACH’s ministry—Ramesh Richard’s personal proclamation.

Everywhere we turn, we see God doing the unexpected, beyond the expected. To paraphrase a former US defense secretary, we were ready for the “expected unexpected,” but also had to seize the “unexpected unexpected” during the pandemic-monopolized season.

Anyone remotely familiar with Ramesh knows he prioritizes planning. Thanks to some kind friends, Ramesh and Bonnie got away to East Texas for concentrated time to consider prospects for RREACH’s future in the “new normal.” His planning process goes this way: prayerful thought, thoughtful decision and decisive action.

2020 didn’t change that process, but it certainly changed our activities.

● **Expected:** Prayerful thought, thoughtful decision-making, decisive action

● **Unexpected:** Prayerful thought, thoughtful decision-making, decisive action!

We hope you will rejoice with us in the God-stories that follow.

Execution of Leadership Responsibilities

The RREACH board of directors also gathered to pray and discuss current realities and next steps in this highly unexpected context. These times of seeking God together and assessing RREACH ministry provided wise counsel and encouragement for Dr. Richard amid the sudden swivel of ministry activities and even priorities.

A couple of pastor-training hubs, including the International Council for Evangelical Theological

Education (**ICETE**), invited him to share in strategic sessions. RREACH was also pleased to host an online meeting (5 hours!) for **Re-Forma**, a new organization (in part stirred into action by RREACH’s 2016 GProCongress for Pastoral Trainers) that seeks to provide much-needed quality assurance for non-formal pastoral training worldwide.

Unexpected Highlight: Leadership during a pandemic

Every time Ramesh shared how RREACH has managed this unusual and difficult time, business and ministry leaders encouraged him to share it with all who might benefit. So he has recorded “Stormin’ Reality: Swivel, Align and Execute” in a case-study contribution for others facing storms. Look for the opportunity to soon receive this video presentation.

Personal Proclamation

● **Expected:** 2020 being a full year of in-person, itinerant travel

● **Unexpected:** Ramesh finding himself in more places than would have been humanly possible by plane or car!

Over a 36-hour period in just one weekend, Dr. Richard spoke during four separate Zoom meetings, one of them a four-hour session. The audience ranged from young mentors in India, to an influential church in the Philippines, to a group of business and professional leaders.

Another time he got up for a 5 a.m. (Dallas time) Facebook Live presentation with entrepreneur and broadcaster Francis Kong on “Being Strong in

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Times of Difficulty.” Viewers joined from Manila, Melbourne, Beirut, Toronto, Milan and beyond, and the talk has since garnered 37,000 "views" on social media. We pray the Lord will work through whatever portion viewers saw.



Seizing yet another exciting new opportunity, Dr. Richard spoke with pastoral leaders from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Though these sessions were slated from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m., they were deeply meaningful for the approximately 30 pastors who labor in the beautiful, emerging and challenging Central Asia region. Praise God for this window to encourage and edify isolated servants; pray for productive impact of God’s Word.

Ramesh “went” to Trinidad and Tobago with a message on “Objective Truth and Reality” as part of a half-day online seminar hosted by the late Dr. John Stott’s Langham Partnership. Then there were the 45-minute podcast on “Spiritual Disciplines” with a Truth and Life Academy reaching South Asia and the Middle East. A Facebook Live interview with GodLife on “The Rock and Relativism” came along with potentially multiple thousands watching after the live broadcast on GodLife’s globe-spanning 1.7 million followers.

Sadly, Dr. Richard also spoke (via Zoom) for the funeral of a dear, five-decade friend and fellow servant of Christ who succumbed to coronavirus. As hundreds watched the virtual service across the globe, interesting poll questions set up his offering of comfort and hope in the gospel. Pray for these seeds to take root and flourish.

Unexpected Highlight:
PRAYERREACH

Would the idea of PRAYERREACH have come about if this year had looked different? Only God knows—but it has certainly been one of the most unexpected and yet most significant RREACHØ opportunities of 2020! Each week, intercessors gather with Ramesh online over Zoom for about 45 minutes. Friends from diverse places pray about the global pandemic and other world issues, after he makes a devotional comment. Do consider beginning each week with this Godward moment together with us as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Amplifying God’s Word Globally

by extending Ramesh Richard’s content for evangelism and training

We develop, document and distribute Dr. Richard’s content globally through conventional or digital media. God has revealed new avenues for this kind of amplification. Rejoice with us over the highlights noted on the next page.

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- **Expected:** Continued growth in social and traditional media
- **Unexpected:** A wide door with accelerated opportunity to build on our media foundation

Español / Portugues / Français ... RREACH is excited to introduce broad efforts in these three languages, along with targeted translations of Dr. Richard's materials into a number of additional languages (Mandarin, Tamil, Bahasa Indonesia and more). We have launched RREACH en Español, an expansion of his written content in Spanish on social media. (Did you know that Ramesh and Bonnie have been learning Spanish?) Using RREACH *en Español* as a pilot, we are rolling out RREACH *en Portugues*, RREACH *a la Français* and more. Efforts flourish.



In 2010, RREACH released a pre-evangelistic talk titled “How 2 Get 2 Hell” on rameshrichard.com. The first quarter of that year, Rameshrichard.com ranked in the top 1% of all web traffic!



In 2020, we transformed the content of that talk into a five-part podcast series called “#WhattheHell?” Viewers are invited to engage on the subject and access trained online counselors (provided by a sister organization, Global Media Outreach.) In-depth discussions have already developed. One viewer wrote, “Claiming the existence of heaven or hell but running from the burden of proof is actually hypocrisy. If you want to believe in such things it’s okay, but if you want us to follow you then you must provide the proof.” Would you pray with us for these individuals?

Our modest goal is 50,000 viewers, of whom 750 to 1,000 subscribe to learn more. We have also distributed the series to RREACH friends as part of **YOURREACH**, a project encouraging believers to reach unbelieving family and friends.

Dr. Richard’s writings have provided insight and encouragement regarding contemporary issues during an unusual 2020. “When Christian Leaders Fall” offered biblical input on what to think, feel and do in that situation. He addressed U.S. election pressures with biblical perspective, wisdom and guidance. His recent **RR Crossing** article affirms that life is doable. You can read this substantive commentary on the well-beloved Philippians 4:13 (and any of the previously mentioned articles) at reach.org/articles. Let us know if you would like the companion “Life is DO-ABLE” bookmark with its dozen declarations!

PREACHERREACH
An Academy of REACH

He also recorded 30 short videos for a new online offering: the LEADERREACH Academy. This intensive course focuses on equipping lay leaders to serve as spiritual leaders at home, work and church. Pray for its launch and success. You, too, may be able to take the course in early 2021. Please watch for details.

Unexpected Highlight:
PREACHERREACH Academy

RREACH just completed our pilot **PREACHERREACH** Academy (Español), a 10-day Zoom course (Nov. 30–Dec. 11) of about 2 hours per day to strengthen pastoral leaders of Latin America to better expound God's Word.

Attendees received concentrated instruction in expository preaching via video and live teaching, participated in breakout and fellowship sessions, and did homework! They finished by preparing and presenting a sermon using the field-tested expository preaching method.

The nature of the academy necessitated daily participation. Two participants minister in a country where internet connectivity is restricted. Further, they participated using a single rented computer to share costs. One evening their connection system failed. They quickly called a colleague in Bolivia by phone. This colleague joined the meeting from his computer and turned up the audio volume; his brothers listened to the entire class over the phone. "That is wanting to learn," said Pastor Ricardo, who is coordinating the academy (see p. 7 for another example of God's providence).

Multiplying God's Word Locally through connecting, uniting
and strengthening pastoral leaders in their local contexts everywhere

RREACH X's plans for 2020 underwent the greatest amount of transition as a result of the pandemic. Although God prevented us from some undertaking of the Global Proclamation Commission, He allowed us to progress in ways we had not expected.

- **Expected:** Holding two major events—the Dallas GProAcademy in June and the GProCongress for Trainers of Pastors (Latin America and the Caribbean) in Panama in October

- **Unexpected:** Creating connections, uniting and strengthening MORE pastors in MORE contexts in MORE ways than before!

Four years ago, RREACH started a strategic documentation of initiatives and activities in the area of training of pastors. We wished to gather data to inform direction and action for the pastoral training "industry." Our goal was to reduce the world deficit of untrained pastors by 5% or 100,000 by December 31, 2020.

By God's grace, we saw that goal exceeded by the hundreds of thousands ahead of time and under budget! This training was done by many individuals, churches, organizations and institutions. The Lord willing, we'll publicly release this information in a Global Integrated Report in 2021. We will let you

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know when, for your joy, presence and response. This first-of-its-kind report (to our knowledge) will help everyone in the critical work of training of pastors to strategize and prioritize for their ministries across the world.

Several times this year we gathered the President's Global Proclamation Associates, for online fellowship and encouragement. These superb men have become a global cohort of like-minded leaders. Ramesh speaks to them and they brainstorm how they can better "stick together" amid many unexpected challenges.



Before COVID-19 went worldwide, Pastor José M (Dallas GPA 2009, Mozambique), Pastor Oscar F (working with Latin America national GProAcademies), Rajiv Richard (RREACH Ministries Coordinator) and Pastor Ricardo R (Dallas GPA 2018, Venezuela) spent hours daily on the phone to mobilize GProLATAM&CARIB attendance.

Unexpected Highlight: Global Proclamation Academy ReGatherings

Following a tremendously successful ReGathering of Dallas Global Proclamation Academy graduates last summer, we gathered 151 national GProAcademy graduates from 18 Latin American countries on a two-hour Zoom call in September, a sheer delight. About two weeks later, God allowed us to similarly regather 141 national GProAcademy graduates of 35 countries in Africa, despite internet limitations, instability and costs. The response from these great servants of Christ leading the fastest growing regions for the Faith affirms such efforts:

I am delighted to have followed the exhortation of the man of God, Dr. R. Richard, based on Hebrews 12:12, 13 at the ReGathering. I must confess that it gave me the courage to always press forward and not let myself be discouraged by life's circumstances; also to encourage others...

Rain of blessings to all of you in Jesus our model, Amen!

Shalom

Pastor Ted, Chad

Many other initiatives continue as Dr. Ramesh Richard and RREACH seek a "most maximum ministry" to deliver spiritual health worldwide. Further, farther and faster. Pray for us!

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BEYOND THE EXPECTED!

The Rock ... & Pluralism from Ramesh Richard

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.

A Felt Need on Local Fronts

"Calvary greetings! Thank you very much for your prayers. Your prayers are making me remain strong. During COVID-19, life has not been okay in my family and ministry. All the physical gatherings were closed. Pastoral ministry became almost impossible. There was no visitation of members, no counseling, no funeral gatherings or other pastoral activities.

"We thank God that the government allowed us to start meeting in June, restricted to one hour, with a restricted number of people. We thank God that now we are able to meet for three hours, although the attendance is very poor.

"Giving is very low because many people are no longer in employment. As a pastor, sometimes it is not easy to feed the family. We thank God that He is our provider. My wife completed her nursing course, and she is waiting for the results.

"Please continue praying for

- me and my family. Ministry is very hard if you cannot manage to bring food on the table.
- our building project. We have no money to continue building the house of God. People are willing, but they don't have money.
- the peace of Zambia. Politicians are dividing people on the tribal lines because of their selfishness.

"Again thank you very much for your timely checking on my family and my ministry. You have been very consistent."

With love and prayers,

Pastor Donald M, Dallas GProAcademy 2015, Zambia