

Monday 5th October

God's redemptive plan

"The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you." Gen 12:1

Recently we looked at the how God's purpose has always been for peoples of every nation, tribe and tongue to be in a relationship with Him. In Genesis 12:1-4 and restated by Paul in Galatians 3: 7-9, we see that God blessed Abraham so that he would be a blessing to all nations; individuals from all nations and peoples would become children of Abraham. He was told by God to leave his country, his people and his father's house in order to see God's redemptive mission accomplished. Today God is moving and mobilising His church to see this purpose fulfilled as missionaries or field workers are now being sent out from countries such as Egypt, the Philippines and India – countries that traditionally have received rather than sent them.

In a prayer guide in July, we mentioned that our mobilising team had started a new online course called MomentumYes, looking at global mission and our part in it as individual believers and as His church. Since then the course has been taken up by churches and Christian Unions in the UK and beyond. We believe this mission tool has the potential to realise a great movement to pray, give, send and go throughout the UK church and beyond.

If you want to know more about this course, please visit the MomentumYes website (<http://www.momentumyes.com>) or contact us at info@frontiers.org.uk for a UK leaders' guide and ideas on how to launch and run a course.

The UK continues to be a sending nation. Across the whole of Frontiers, we have over 1,200 field workers from about 50 different nations, working across the Muslim world in around 250 teams in 50 different countries. In the last 2 years alone, over 2,500 Muslims have come to Christ through our teams and their local partners. Over 30 years of ministry, about 20,000 Muslims have become new believers in 1,500 fellowships. We praise God for this.

- Pray for the UK church to catch God's purpose to see people of all nations reconciled to Him. Perhaps prayerfully consider introducing or running the MomentumYes course in your small group or church.
- God empowers His church to accomplish His global mission. Pray for churches across the world to awaken to His mission and to be part of completing the task (Acts 1:8).
- Let's take time to thank God for continuing to build His church across the world and ask Him to bless all the churches who are sending workers to the least reached peoples.

Tuesday 6th October

Sending missionaries

God is moving and mobilising his people in different parts of the world. In 1975 in the Philippines, there were 3,000 churches. Today there are over 55,000! They are planning and looking at how to send 5,000 missionaries from the Philippines to the nations with least access to the gospel in the

next 15 years. In South Korea, at the beginning of the twentieth century, the Christian presence in the country was minimal. Today 17% of South Koreans are Christians. Only 5 countries in the world send out more missionaries.

Meanwhile, in Egypt, an increasing number of Egyptian believers are becoming bold in sharing their faith and some are hearing the call to do this in other nations. This shift has been gaining momentum over the past two decades, running in parallel with the rise of the Egyptian prayer movement. A Frontiers worker is involved in this through an initiative called 'Out of Egypt.' Their founding vision over 2 years ago was to see an increase in the quality and quantity of Egyptian workers being sent out to the nations through increased collaboration, both nationally and internationally. They see what God is doing in their nation as part of a global phenomenon.

At a prayer and mission conference in Egypt last December, a keynote speaker shared: ““We believe that God, right now, is saying, ‘It’s not just fasting and prayer, I want you to pray ‘Lord of the harvest thrust forth labourers into the harvest field!’ and “I believe this is Egypt’s time.””

At this conference 'Out of Egypt' ran a workshop about praying for the nations. There was so much interest that it has heightened their faith level to believe that God is stirring up people in Egypt to bless the nations and engage in global harvest through prayer, fasting and sending.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the 'Out of Egypt' initiative through prayer, promoting it to others who may be interested or exploring ways you can get more actively involved in this network, please contact us at info@frontiers.org.uk

- Let's pause to thank God for all he is doing to mobilise His church to see people of all nations reconciled to Himself.
- Pray for the churches in the Philippines, South Korea and Egypt as they seek to send workers into the mission field in obedience to God's global mandate.
- Pray for the 'Out of Egypt' initiative as they seek to mobilise prayer and mission locally, nationally and internationally. Pray they would have all the resources they need and keep in step with God's leading and guiding.

Sources of some content: <https://www.momentumyes.com/>

Wednesday 7th October

Out of Egypt

'Out of Egypt' produced the following article, citing five reasons why they believe Egypt is one of the new strategic sending nations that God is raising up:



Largest Church in the Middle East

Accurate numbers are impossible to come by, but Operation World estimates that there are 3 million Evangelical Christians in Egypt. This potential task force is the largest in the Middle East and is increasing as more people are gradually coming to faith from nominal Christian and Muslim backgrounds.

Language and Culture

Arabic is rated as the second hardest language in the world to learn and many Western missionaries struggle! Sending missionaries with Arabic as their mother tongue isn't just an advantage within the Arab world; some other Muslim nations, such as Indonesia, hold native Arabic speakers in high esteem since they speak the language of the Quran. Add to this the naturally friendly and hospitable nature of Egyptians and it's not surprising that Egyptian missionaries have a reputation for quickly building relationships.

Growing Prayer Movement

For the last two decades God has been softening hearts of Egyptian believers towards the lost through a grass roots prayer movement. A brief look at history shows that prayer movements generally lead to mission movements.

Short-Term Mission and Refugee Response

There is already a great deal happening with Egyptians sent on short-term mission trips. Over the past couple of years, over 20 ministries have partnered together to send hundreds of Egyptians to serve Syrian refugees. Such initiatives are raising the profile of international mission in Egypt and causing more people to consider long-term service.

Prophetic Destiny and Vision

The number of Egyptian Christian leaders who are sensing the call for Egypt to become a sending nation is growing. Many of them refer to the prophecy in Isaiah 19, where Egypt is called "my people" and "a blessing on the earth", when talking of their nation's calling. There are also increasing numbers of initiatives to give churches a vision for missionary sending.

- Let's pray for the release of more harvest workers from Egypt to the nations.
- 'Out of Egypt' is exploring partnerships to send Egyptian workers to serve on or alongside international teams across the Middle East and North African regions. Please pray for these sending partnerships to work well together to achieve their common vision and goal.
- One of the main challenges hindering long-term sending is funding. The church there does not have a culture of support-raising for mission and Egypt has a weak currency and rising poverty levels. Pray for creative approaches and sources of funding that will accelerate long-term sending.

Source: https://gallery.mailchimp.com/ee25184fe373037786a4475cd/files/55430532-b716-46b3-a660-e7e575ffeb2b/Mar19_Feature_Story.01.pdf

Thursday 8th October

The calling of an early pioneer out of Egypt

"My wife and I are Egyptians from a Christian background. I grew up attending a Coptic orthodox church. As a child and young adult, I practised my Coptic faith by the book. When my fellow high school students tried to convert me to Islam, an evangelical friend taught me how to answer their arguments. That was my first involvement with Muslims.

When I was in my twenties, God led me to really know Him. Then I read a book about a man who called young people to make God known not just in their own country but throughout the world. I sensed God telling me, "This will be your path." After moving to an evangelical church, I joined a discipleship class led by an expatriate who had worked elsewhere in the Middle East. His stories about ministry with Muslims set my heart on fire. When he introduced me to people who were involved in a church-planting effort in Egypt, I eagerly joined in.

After working amongst Muslims in our own culture, my wife and I felt God leading us to take several mission training courses in a neighbouring country, where we stayed on to work with refugees for six years. In 2012, we moved to another Middle Eastern country, where we continue to share the good news.

For centuries, our region has been a place that received missionaries, not sent them. The mentality of sending missionaries just didn't exist in the Egyptian church. Our church doesn't know about being committed to such people – supporting them, praying for them. We were one of the first Egyptian couples to start opening that road, so we have faced some obstacles over the years."

- Let's thank God for this couple and other pioneers who have run the race set before them, regardless of the obstacles and hardships. Let's pray God's blessing over them.
- Ask God to raise up bold pioneers willing to go from their country, their people and their family to the land that God shows them to reach the lost.
- We thank God that the Egyptian church is waking up to the call to send workers to other Muslim nations. Pray for increasing unity, trust and collaboration across churches and ministries as they work together to strengthen their sending efforts.

Friday 9th October

Coming to faith

This is a story from the couple we read about yesterday.

"Isa al-Masih (the Muslim name for Jesus) is so different from any other prophet – from anyone else, ever! We follow Him because He loved us enough to sacrifice Himself for us," I told these two Muslim couples in the country we now serve in.

My wife and I had been meeting weekly in this extended family's home. Three of them put their trust in Jesus earlier in the year, but Medya took a bit longer. Then she quietly declared her intention to follow Isa al-Masih.

Two weeks later, I continued explaining, "If we follow Jesus, he lifts us up from being slaves to being beloved sons and daughters of God." Medya's eyes lit up with understanding. "But in Islam," she said, "we are slaves."

"And what do you prefer?" I gently asked. "To be beloved of God, or just a slave?" "Of course, to be a beloved daughter of God," she responded.

After nearly two decades' experience of inviting Muslims to follow Jesus, I know that I need to allow the Holy Spirit, in his own time, to unveil these sorts of revelations to new believers. I cannot force

them to understand. In the same way, the Holy Spirit has gradually unveiled certain truths to me too – particularly to help me understand that a Muslim’s journey of faith in Jesus will be different from the route I took as an Egyptian who grew up in the Coptic Orthodox Church.”

- Let’s thank God for His Spirit who brings revelation and understanding of the gospel message of salvation.
- Pray for Medya and those in her extended family who have come to faith, to grow in their knowledge of the truth and for others in their family to have the same revelation and understanding given to them.
- Let’s continue to lift all workers before the throne of God asking for refreshment, wisdom and encouragement as they labour in the harvest field for His glory.

Saturday 10th October

Praise, worship and prayer

Psalm 96:1-3 declares:

*“Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.
Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples.”*

Let’s take some time to reflect on God’s redemptive plan for mankind. You may like to listen to this worship song as you do this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29lxnsgOkmQ>

- God has blessed each of us in order to be a blessing. Let’s pray that we will understand our part in God’s global purpose and be obedient to fulfill what He has called us to do.

Let’s take a few moments to pray for our workers on the field, who like Abraham, have given up so much to be part of God’s mission plan:

- Pray for workers who are discouraged and weary, especially during this time of the coronavirus crisis; for those who have persevered for many years in prayer and in sharing the good news yet are still waiting for the harvest. Let’s ask that their work will produce a crop, a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown (Matt 13:8).
- Let’s ask God to bless each worker, make them a blessing in the place He has called them and for them to know that God is glorified because of their sacrifice.

Let’s take a moment to pray for our candidates who attended the training course last week:

- Father we ask you to give each candidate a fresh anointing on their call to make your name known in the Muslim world.
- We ask you to set their hearts on fire and renew in them a godly confidence in their part in your global mission plan as they prepare to go and declare your glory among the nations (Ps 96).

