

God's Power

Growing up in a church in affluent North America I had some unspoken assumptions about how and through whom God normally works.

God continues to implode those assumptions. Here are three stories from three different places I have visited in the last two months.

Berlin. In January, I was in Berlin. I attended a small fellowship of new believers who were refugees from the Middle East. The fellowship was pastored by Resonate missionaries David Kromminga and his wife Mary Buteyn.

Most of the new believers in this fellowship were Iranians from a Muslim background. Many observers think that the fastest growing Christian movement in the world today is among Iranians. It seems that wherever Iranians are living around the world the Spirit is moving. Who would have thought this would be how God would show his power?

Cambodia. In February I was in Cambodia and the Philippines. In Cambodia I met Seeyian, a missionary from Kenya. She will be helping to plant a church in a small town in Cambodia which does not have a Gospel presence.

Those of you who are in Iowa may remember that a couple of years ago I visited some of your churches with Rev. Peterson Wang'ombe. Rev. Peterson pastors a church in Nairobi, Kenya, that partners with Resonate. Seeyian was sent to Cambodia by that church. Pastor Petersen hopes that she is the first of many missionaries that the church will send. Who would have thought this would be how God would show his power?

The Philippines. In the Philippines Resonate partners with Asian Theological Seminary where Resonate missionary Stan Kruis teaches.

Filipinos are migrant workers in many countries from the Middle East to East Asia. They often work at menial jobs in construction or as house help. But many of them see themselves as more than migrant workers. They



Gil Suh (Resonate missionary in Cambodia), Seeyian, Joel, Zack King (Resonate Director)

are also missionaries, much like the early Christians that moved away from Jerusalem because of the persecution following the stoning of Stephen. Acts 8:4 says that "Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went."

Asian Theology Seminary now has an online program of theological education to help train these migrant workers "preach the word." These Filipino missionaries do not need to raise money like Jeannie and I do. They simply carry the Gospel with them wherever they find work. Who would have thought this would be how God would show his power?

Ministering in weakness

We in North America might be tempted to think that the power of our Gospel witness depends on our financial resources, or on the strength of our churches and institutions, or in the sophistication of our theological traditions. I know that I have been tempted to think that.

Lately I have been reading I Corinthians. Paul seemed to have thought differently. Paul seems to have adopted a posture of weakness rather than strength. I wonder if there are lessons here for the church in North America.

This is what Paul says to the Corinthian Christians: "I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with persuasive

words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power." (1 Corinthians 2:4)

As Resonate we have tried to put this posture of "weakness" into practical habits that can guide our Gospel witness. Here are four of those habits:

- Prayer We saturate all we do in prayer as an expression of our complete dependence on God and as an integral part of our discernment in where the Spirit is leading.
- Listening We listen to God's Spirit and Word and we listen to one another in order to discern together what God wants us to be and do in our context.

- Serving We are servant leaders, imitating Jesus as we serve the local leaders, congregations, and the communities to which God has called us. As we serve others, we strive to bring out the best in each other.
- Inquiry-Based Learning We are actively engaged with an open mind and relevant questions to learn from each other and one another about where God is at work in them and in their ministry.

Please pray for us as we work to model these postures. Pray that many would come to a faith that rests not on human power, but on God's wisdom.

Joel

Click to see the 2019 annual report of the Nehemiah Center: https://mcusercontent.com/674e984ffae71d3136767fb6/files/94728632-fed7-408e-bef0-868c58b8c9a4/Annual_Report_2019english_final_compressed.pdf

PRAISE:

- For the ways the Spirit is working in this world, often in places we might not expect it.
- For safety for Joel in his travels.
- For a Faith, Education and City consultation in Chicago. This consultation brought together about 20 dynamic leaders who are passionate about urban, multi-cultural Christian education in the "hard places" of our cities.

PRAYER:

- For the people of China as they struggle with the corona virus. Pray that the spread of the virus would stop. Pray for the witness of the Christians in China as they speak words of hope in the midst of this crisis.
- For Jeannie and members of her family as they mourn the death of two family members.
- For our upcoming visit to our beloved Nicaragua from March 11-18. Joel will participate in the wedding of a close friend of almost two decades.



CLIP & SEND RESPONSE CARD

I (we) would like to support
Joel and Jeannie Huyser

Fund Code 802068

- by becoming their prayer partner
- with a special gift of \$
- with a monthly pledge of \$
- with an annual pledge of \$

CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME:	<input type="text"/>
ADDRESS:	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
PHONE:	<input type="text"/>
EMAIL:	<input type="text"/>

Please make checks payable to Resonate Global Mission and include Fund Code 802068 on the memo line.

Gifts are received with the understanding that Resonate Global Mission has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds.

Unless it is noted, no goods or services were provided to the donor. Every effort will be made to use your gift for the designated ministry.

Gifts to ministries that are oversubscribed, or cannot be completed, will be directed to those that have a similar intent or ministry location.

UNITED STATES

1700 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508-1407

P (616) 726-1144
P 877-272-6205

CANADA

3475 Mainway
PO Box 5070, STN LCD 1
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8

P (905) 336-2920
P 800-730-3490

ResonateGlobalMission.org/Donate


Resonate
GLOBAL MISSION



A Ministry of the Christian Reformed Church