


Global Moments

A 5-day Journey Around the World





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Welcome

We invite you to join us for five Global Moments, beginning in India and moving from Asia to Africa and from the Caribbean to Europe. Each true story tells how God works in and through Live Global national partners. Be introduced to leaders reaching their own people and nations with the gospel of Jesus. Be inspired by their journeys of faith and their hearts to serve God by sharing the good news.

Each Global Moment includes:

- Scripture suggestions for more reading
- a prayer of response
- an idea for an activity to take the truths a step further

When people encounter the gospel around the globe, their lives change and God gets the glory. If you'd like to meet other national partners, stay up to date with how God is working, or learn more about Live Global, find us at liveglobal.org.

The Idol Maker Who Became a Servant India

In West Bengal of India, a devout Hindu family had a son named Manbir. His family celebrated the Hindu festivals and looked to the many family gods in their home. Idols of Vishnu, Shiva, Ganapati and Saraswati watched the household with empty eyes.

To help support his family, Manbir stopped attending school when he was only fourteen. To earn money, he found a job as an idol maker in an idol factory. During Hindu festivals, Manbir worked long hours to meet the demand. People said he was not only skilled at shaping idols, but his artistic skills brought idols “to life.”

When he turned eighteen, Manbir walked to the local market to purchase paints. On the way, he noticed people watching a movie in a field. He decided to take a look and soon realized the movie showed a person who lived long ago. Manbir didn’t know the story, but the movie entertained him. He talked to people around him, and no one there had ever heard of the man in the movie.

In the last film scene, Manbir watched people crucify the man Jesus. He remembered seeing cross symbols, but never understood the significance. In his heart, the idol maker could not understand why people hated the innocent man. God stirred his heart, until the Indian host of the Jesus Film invited anyone with questions to come forward and receive a book about love.

Once he had the book, Manbir realized the book was not about love between a boy and girl, but a different kind of love—a love only God creates.

Seeing the Jesus Film and reading the book made Manbir want to know such love. On the back of the book, he found information to learn more. The idol maker called the number and found out about a church. The next week, he went to church and heard the words of 1 John 1:9.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Manbir was ready to leave his idols for the God who forgives sin and purifies people who come to Him.

The leader invited people to come to the front. Manbir stood up to walk forward and give his heart to Jesus Christ. He wanted to follow the true God who lives and loves the people he made.

Manbir told the good news to his family, but they angrily rejected him. Neighbors beat him for leaving his Hindu faith to follow a foreign god. For more than a year, the people who bowed to idols attacked Manbir for turning away.



“But their idols are silver and gold, made by human hands. They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see. They have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but cannot smell. They have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but cannot walk, nor can they utter a sound with their throats. Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.” (Psalm 115:4-8)

Manbir continued going to church to learn the truth. The pastor helped him go to a Bible school for Bengali speaking people. After three years, Manbir returned to his hometown to serve God there, where people still bowed to idols made by hands, but powerless to help.

Drought and floods came to West Bengal. Disease and hunger came. In each hardship, Manbir served the people in the ways Jesus would. Slowly, his family and neighbors saw his new life. They started to accept and love him.

Today, the people see Manbir's God is a god like no other god they carve or paint or place on a shelf. Friends who once abandoned him now talk to him, and his parents welcome him with open arms. They say, “Manbir changed after becoming a Christian and that cannot be denied. He loves when hated, serves when he should ignore, and goes the extra mile for those in need.”

The idol maker turned from his idols to follow Jesus. Now, he leads an island ministry center and shares the news of the true God in West Bengal. The center shows the love of Jesus by providing care for medical needs and training women with skills to help support their families. Manbir's work is so well known that local people call it the “Jesus Mission.”



Read:

Psalm 115:4-8, Isaiah 44:9-11



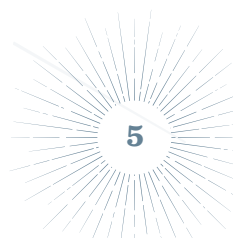
Pray:

Dear God, thank You for seeing and hearing us. You are alive, and we trust you. We praise you for changing the idol maker's heart, helping people in his hometown to see his new life. Help the people of West Bengal to know you are the true God, not made by hands. Help people to see that you live in us. Amen



Global Moment Activity:

Use clay or playdoh to shape a figure of a person or an animal. Talk about what the shape is like, what it can do and what it can't do. Pray for the people of West Bengal to come to know the living, true God.





The Chief Who Became a Saint

Togo

Tsoekewo stayed locked in the dark room fourteen days. The fetish priest said the strange ceremonies would heal his sickness and make him a village chief in his area of Togo, West Africa. What could be better than becoming a chief?

Young Tsoekewo had been in severe pain for many months, so his parents took him first to a hospital. When he didn't recover, they took him to their fetish priest who tries to connect spirits and people. Tsoekewo's family worshipped idols and listened to the evil priest, so he waited in the dark room day after day.

In March of 1979 the village made Tsoekewo their chief, and he recovered his health. His family wanted to believe it was the dark power that healed him. Now, he knows, "The best miracle is Jesus Christ when we accept him as our personal Savior and Lord. He is the only one that can set us free and have dominion over Satan in his name."

Four years after the fetish priest conducted the dark ceremonies over Chief Tsoekewo, he stopped walking in darkness.

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, live as children of light," (Ephesians 5:8)

The African name Tsoekewo means "forgive them." Tsoekewo took a new name, Joseph, and now he tells his own story of moving from the darkness into light.

In Joseph's culture in Togo, no one becomes a chief and denies it. People warn that a chief who turns away will go crazy, but Joseph says, "Instead of being crazy, I have more wisdom." He knows "Jesus Christ is greater than Satan. Jesus set me free indeed."

Once Joseph turned from darkness to light, he immediately went to his village to declare his faith in Jesus. This meant he would also forsake his position as chief. Great persecution followed from his own family and from the elders of the village. Other followers of Jesus helped Joseph to escape and prayed for him. God had plans to use the chief who became a saint in his own land.

In his new life, Joseph learned more of what it meant to follow Jesus. God used him to lead a church in Togo, to work with AWANA ministries, and then to serve in a nearby country with his own family. "If not because of God's grace, I would have died and gone to hell. For that reason, I will preach the good news to every creature."



As Pastor Joseph preached the good news of the light of Jesus, another chief listened. Unlike the young Chief Tsoekewo, Togbui was an older man. Head chief of the Agotime people, he heard Joseph explain how Jesus sets us free from darkness. “The only source of true joy, contentment, and blessing is obedience to God. There is no place in the world I’d rather be than exactly where God wants me to be, doing the work he gives me to do,” Pastor Joseph says.

Chief Togbui decided he would turn from darkness and receive the light of Jesus. Now, like Joseph, he faces the challenges of denouncing his position as the village chief. “I know this is not going to be an easy task for him as a newborn baby in Jesus Christ,” Joseph says. He remembers. He knows. “I was in his position before.” Because of this, Togbui will come stay with Joseph. Not to be locked away in darkness, but to learn to walk in light. Together, they will study God’s word and meet with others who turned from darkness. “That is a soul who is won for the glory of God,” Pastor Joseph declares. “The church is not the building, but the saints.”

By the grace and mercy of God, two chiefs became saints in Togo, West Africa—Tsoekewo, who became Joseph, and Togbui.



Read:

1 John 4:4, Matthew 5:14-16, Isaiah 9:2, Isaiah 42:16-17



Pray:

Our Father,
You are greater than any other, and you are the light of the world. We are thankful to know you overcome darkness. In you, we can find true joy, contentment, and blessing. Like Pastor Joseph, we want to be where you want us to be, doing the work you want us to do for your glory. Amen



Global Moment Activity:

Take one minute and gather as many sources of light as you can. Put them in order from dim to bright. Take a dim light and a bright light into a dark space. With lights out, turn on the dim light. Talk about what changes. Turn on the bright light. Talk about the difference. Choose the best light to walk in darkness. Thank Jesus for being the light of the world.



The Builder Who Became a Farmer

Myanmar

Suan never dreamed of being a farmer, so he never planned to buy a farm. Instead, he dreamed of buying land to build a church in his country. But today, Suan gathers a harvest of bananas from trees he planted, and he waits for mango and coconut trees to yield their fruit one day. Why would God take a church builder and make him a farmer?

In 2019 some churches in the United States invited Suan to travel from his home in the delta regions of Myanmar to come visit them. They wanted to hear about his work as a missionary in his own nation, where about 95% of Myanmar nationals follow gods made by people. Most identify themselves as Buddhist, and some identify with other religions. Strangers to the God of the Bible, 85% of these people have no access to the good news about Jesus Christ.

“The field is the world,” (Matthew 13:38b)

So Suan works to share the gospel with those yet to know Jesus.

Suan understands what it is to bow to idols, because he once worshipped them too. But then he decided to follow Jesus. He went to a seminary in his homeland to learn about God and his word. Now, he knows the true God, and he works to reach the unreached. He became the first pioneer missionary from his people group to move across cultures inside Myanmar to reach Buddhist people. Because many of the Burmese people think Christianity is a Western, modern religion, Suan uses a booklet called *The Ancient Path* to help people learn the truth.

As Suan told North American Christians about the unreached people of Myanmar, God gave some of them a desire to help Suan build a church. All this time, he had been praying for land to build a church building. They shared gifts with him for his dream of building a church. “I saved all the gifts, and when I had enough funds, I bought a small piece of land.”

Only a year later, everything changed. In 2020 the whole world experienced a pandemic. To stop the virus from spreading, many governments put laws in place so people would stay home. In communities of Asia, most workers find work one day at a time. The “day laborers” work each day for the money to buy food the next day. Unable to go out to work, people faced hunger.

“I had just purchased the land when the first wave of Covid-19 broke out in our country, and all the villages and towns are locked down. I couldn’t go out for door to door visiting, as we had done for evangelism and caring for our believers, but I did not want to waste this time.”



The land for the building sat empty. The stomachs of the people were empty. Suan had a piece of empty land and a desire to reach the unreached. Then God gave him an idea.

The church builder planted a farm where he prayed a church would grow.

"I never imagined that I would have time to do farming," Suan said. He planted 150 mango plants. He planted banana trees. He planted coconut trees.

"The mango trees are still very small and will not produce fruit until next year, but I was able to harvest some bananas to help every one of our five widows among our church members. Then, I realized that our church members and even some Buddhists who lost their jobs in the lockdown could be my helpers. I could pay them a small amount and share the produce to keep their families from starving."

And the church building? For now, Suan built a bamboo building for the church people to gather. Sometimes, planting a church starts with planting a farm and feeding people. Suan knows this, because he understands his own people. He knows most of Myanmar's people are hungry to know the truth, to hear the gospel of salvation.

"When I bought the land, I never imagined God would bring the lost to me when I couldn't go to them!" God made Suan a farmer to plant a field so he could plant a church to reach those who are unreached.



Read:

Matthew 13:37-39, 2 Corinthian 9:10, Matthew 6:26-32



Pray:

Heavenly Lord,
Your Son planted good seed into the field of the world. We give you thanks for planting your gospel in our hearts, and we know there is a harvest waiting. Thank you for providing land Suan needed to feed people in a time of hunger. Thank you for giving him a way to show your love and share your truth. We ask you to give Suan a good harvest of food to share and a good harvest in the church also growing on the land. Amen



Global Moment Activity:

Go for a walk to see what grows where you live. Make a list. Do people need food where you live, or do they need other things? Talk about what people are hungry for in your community. Think about a way you could use what you have to feed them. Ask God to help you plant seeds of his love and truth.



The Child Who Became a Leader

Cuba

Officials knocked on each door, checking to see if people concealed more food than allowed. Rhode thought about the food and hygiene supplies she so carefully bought to care for the needy. Friends warned her pandemic shortages were coming, but God provided funds through North American churches so she could prepare. She waited in line for five hours to get the funds to shop. Would God protect what he provided?

When the officials came to her street, they passed over her door. God has been guiding Rhode's path since the days her parents prayed.

"Take this child, Lord. We give her to you so that you can do with her whatever you want," the Christian mother and father prayed over their baby. Together, they presented their first daughter to their church in the westernmost part of Cuba. Believing God loves children, the faithful couple determined to teach their children to love God above all. Before they introduced their little Rhode that day, the husband and wife prayed God would guide her on the path he chose for her. Where would her path lead?

Rhode learned to love God as she grew. While still a girl, not even in double digits, she went to a spiritual retreat for children. At camp, a missionary taught from Romans 12 saying, "Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone," because, "you're Christian children."

But Rhode knew in her heart she was not a Christian. "My mom and dad are Christians," she thought, "but I've never asked Jesus to come live in my heart." The first daughter of the faithful family understood she needed her own personal relationship with Jesus.

Later that day, Rhode found a beautiful place to be alone with God. There, she asked Jesus to be her own Savior. She wanted him to lead her path. In Proverbs 3:5-6 God's word says,

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

God guided her, and Rhode knew she wanted to serve him her whole life.

Rhode's path led her to seminary, where she taught others who shared her heart to teach children and youth. To reach children across her nation, Professor Rhode created a fellowship network from the students she trained and disciplined. They look to her with respect as their spiritual mother. Leaders in every province trust God to help them meet needs and teach children about having a relationship with him.

Even with their training and passion, Rhode and her network had few resources, because paper, ink, and printers are scarce. To illustrate stories of the Bible, they scoured magazines looking for pictures to represent Adam, Eve, and other Bible characters.



“We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.” (Psalm 78:4)

How would God provide? In 2018 friends from Live Global came to see how God was working. Just before they came, they completed a Spanish version of a children’s ministry curriculum teaching Genesis to Revelation. The new partners brought the fresh resource to Rhode. With tears, Rhode received the gift of *99 Adventures in the Bible’s Big Story* for children. God provided a printer for Rhode; they used their paper, ink, and binding supplies to make copies for the first 200 leaders, equipping them with their own resources.

“I have a promise from God from the time I was called to ministry and began ministry. Everything that happens to me since this time, causes me to throw this verse at every circumstance:

“I will show you the way.” (Psalm 32:8)

God showed Rhode the way, leading her to teach, train, and connect others. He led her to partners delivering precious resources. And God used those same partners to provide basic supplies for families. He protected what he provided, keeping it hidden. “You know this is what touches my heart,” Rhode says, “These are families we have not yet been able to reach with the good news of Jesus Christ.” God provides what Rhode needs on the path he chose for her.

Rhode remembers the day she asked Jesus to be her Savior. She wants to help children in her nation to follow Jesus. “I envision a generation growing up in [our nation] with a different approach to their relationship with God, a generation growing up in the fear of God, and with a missionary approach.”

Rhode’s parents prayed, “Take this child, Lord.” And God did, guiding her path ever since.



Read:

Psalm 32:8, Psalm 78:4, Proverbs 3:5-6, Romans 12:17-18



Pray:

Dear God Who guides us,
Thank you for providing for the needs of the poor and protecting the supplies. Thank you for providing for us. We want to follow the path you choose for us like you did for Rhode. You show us the best way to go and to use our life. Amen



Global Moment Activity:

Rhode and her students had very few tools to tell Bible stories. Go on a hunt around you and see what you can find to illustrate the people of the Bible. If you have books with Bible stories, gather those and thank God. Choose one item you find and use it to tell a Bible story.



The Church Who Became a Refuge Bosnia

When they left behind everything to escape conflict in their homelands, the refugees brought only what they could carry. Some mothers carried babies yet to be born, and some grandparents carried heavy hearts for their families. Some teenagers traveled alone. Everyone carried a heavy burden. It's not easy to leave home in search of safety and shelter. There were many more people migrating than what could fit in the refugee camps. When winter comes, crowds of people of all ages look for places to find warmth. They look for shelter, a refuge.

Zijah and Lorena lead a church in Eastern Europe filled with people who follow Jesus. Their own country is poor, but they love to travel around their region between the seas to share the good news of the gospel. In 2018 streams of people from inside and outside their region began arriving. Most of them had never heard the gospel. In their majority religion, they knelt to pray many times a day, but they had no relationship with the true God who loves them. Many of the migrating people expected Christians to be cruel.

The church opened its doors to provide warm shelter to refugees. Church members came to make tea and cook soup, giving all they had to care for those God brought to them. Refugees could see the love of the Christians who showed compassion, not cruelty. The church became a shelter for people without a home or a country.

While spending time with the people of the church, the newcomers began to hear about Jesus. In the welcome shelter of God's people, some refugees trusted in the God who is a refuge and strength.

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble,” (Psalm 46:1)

“Yes, we know there are problems,” Zijah says, “but we know that God is bigger than all problems and that he is with us. We are continuing to encourage people to focus on God and not to focus on all problems surrounding us.” When some of the refugees decide to follow Jesus, their families reject them. They pressure them to give up their new faith. Still, Zijah and Lorena say, “Every week we can see that God is changing the lives of people and that they are relying on him in spite of all opposition in their families. It is great to see that God is opening new doors and that the church is also growing in numbers.”

People continued to come, and as they did, others moved on to further parts of Europe. Did God bring them to the shelter of the church for a short time? Did God bring them to the shelter of the church just to meet Jesus there?

“In this hard time,” the leader Zijha says, “God is giving us a great blessing.” To help those migrating to new homes in places like the United Kingdom, Spain, Slovakia, France, and Germany, Zijah and Lorena's church wanted to create a way to continue teaching about faith in Jesus.



Far from their first church family in Bosnia, the new Christians needed teaching and encouragement. To do this, Lorena and Zijah created devotions to send to their friends using apps on their phones.

People began to share the messages from their phones, using them for small prayer groups in migrant camps. In one place, a prayer group developed into a church gathering three times a week. Ten people came, and more kept coming. Then, Zijah's church used mobile devices to record sermons for the new, far away churches. Two days a week they made new sermons for their "Mobile Church." They sent the messages to brothers and sisters who moved on to Western and Central Europe. Lorena says, "It is amazing that they all feel that their home church is in Bosnia."

Did God bring people to the shelter of the church just so they could meet Jesus and take the gospel to other people?

Lorena explains, "We are thankful to God that we are united in prayer and ministry."

When Zijah, Lorena, and their church received the people God brought to them, they needed to use their building as a shelter. It was the first time most of the refugees had found refuge in God. Others already knew Jesus as their Savior, but they fled their homelands where Christians meet in secret and their lives were in danger. The people of the church became a shelter. They led the weary people to God Himself, a refuge and strength in time of trouble. The church served the people at their door and a missions movement ignited from the little church in the Eastern European town.

God is a refuge, strength, and shelter for people without a country, a home, or a hope. The church in Bosnia grows in new ways. God works through their willingness to creatively care for the hearts of people he brings to their door.



Read:

Psalm 46:1-3, Psalm 62:8, Isaiah 25:4, John 13:34-35



Pray:

Father in Heaven,
Thank you for being our refuge and strength. You are our help when there's trouble. You are a help to those far from home—those without a home. We want to show your love to people in need, so they look to you for help. Teach us to be a safe place for people you bring to us. Amen



Global Moment Activity:

What shelter do you call home? Look around to observe it carefully. What makes it a safe place? Draw a picture of a good shelter you could build. Talk about why a shelter is a good place to call home. What about God makes the Bible call him a refuge and a strong place?