

# MOVEMENTS *Prayer Journal*

JANUARY — MARCH 2018

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By Gina Butz

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Excerpt from Tim Keller

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PRAY 2020

Global  
Prayer

**MOLD**

*our hearts*

*Mulmula zukatan mu*

**MULTIPLY**

*our lives*

*Ka ribanya rayuwar mu*

**MOBILIZE**

*laborers*

*Ka taro ma'aikata*

Hausa (trade language used  
in West and North Africa)



**A global movement of prayer,** asking God to raise up **10 million Christ-centered, multiplying disciples and 5 million new churches/faith communities by 2020!** The Scriptures tell us God honors persistent prayer. Join Cru and our partners in continuing to ask Him to:

- **MOLD** our hearts to be like Jesus' heart. (Romans 12:2; Ephesians 5:15-18)
- **MULTIPLY** our lives into the lives of others. (2 Timothy 2:2; John 15:5-10)
- **MOBILIZE** laborers for the Lord's spiritual harvest (Matthew 9:36-38).

The Great Commission and its fulfillment are from the heart of God (Matthew 28:18-20). He desires to reach this goal through His people. Only He can answer these prayers.

***Pray2020: A strategy to help us to unite and persist in passionate prayer***

This simple initiative is designed to help us pray daily and to invite others in the body of Christ to join us. Set a prayer reminder alarm for 20:20 (8:20 p.m.), wherever you are, whomever you are with.

**Read more about Pray2020 and how you can play a vital role in mobilizing disciples and planting churches around the world at: [pray2020.org](http://pray2020.org)**



# Looking Back

By Gina Butz

A few summers ago, our family spent several weeks in Colorado. Naturally, we spent some time hiking. Our kids were not fans. It was, "Too hard, too far, too hot, not enough snacks," you name it. We trained our kids not to say, "I can't do this," but rather, "I currently struggle with . . ." At one point, our daughter commented, "I currently struggle with this mountain."

Mountain climbing isn't easy, but I've learned one thing that helps me keep going: stopping once in a while and looking back.

When we look back, we see that yes, we actually are making progress. The top is closer. We have traveled some distance. Just that look back can encourage us to keep pressing on.

As we enter a new year, we do not know what the future holds. It could be that you are excited about the possibilities. But maybe you're heading into a new season that is uncertain. Prayers you started last January may sit still unanswered. The path forward may be a tough road. It's easy to say, "I currently struggle with this," and want to give up.

***So before we move forward, we need to look back.***

Recently, I did this with my ministry team at work. On a retreat, we reflected on Joshua 4, when the Israelites crossed the Jordan. After they did, God admonished them to take stones from the river and pile them up in remembrance of what He had done.

In the absence of stones, we found a piece of driftwood from the intercoastal. On one side, we wrote, "we remember . . ." We each took turns writing something God did for us this past year, a way He showed His faithfulness. It was good to reflect on how He has worked good in our lives.

**MOLD our hearts**

**Romans 10:8-11**

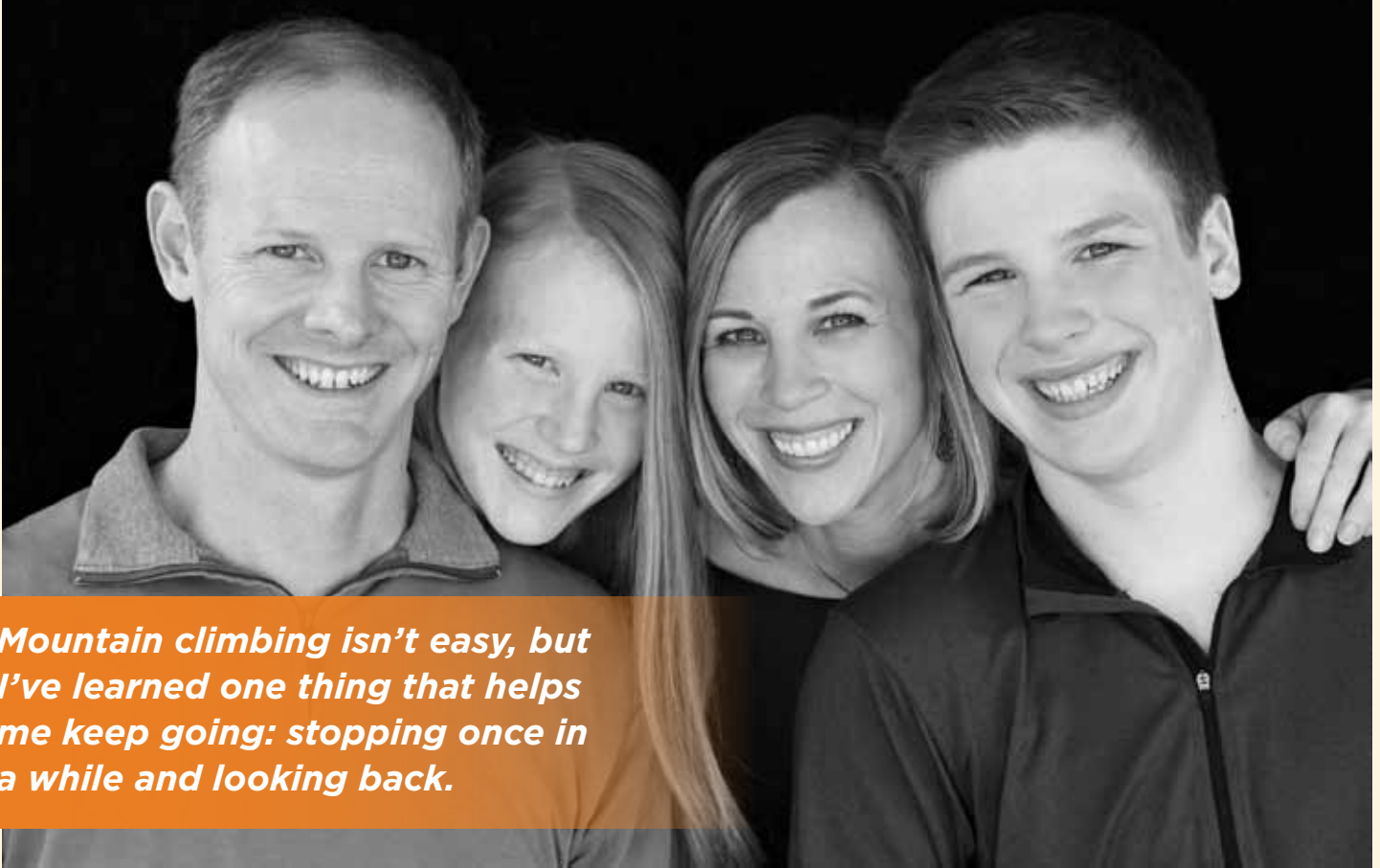
Pause to remember the person or persons who God used to bring the truth, the Lord Jesus Christ, into your life.  
Thank Him for them by name.

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# Helps Us Go Forward



*Mountain climbing isn't easy, but I've learned one thing that helps me keep going: stopping once in a while and looking back.*

On the other side, we wrote, “therefore we hope . . .”

Therefore. It's an important word. We hope *because* we have seen. Looking back, we remind ourselves how far He has brought us. We see that He has been our faithful companion along the path. It is His strength and wisdom that has brought us to this place. He will guide us the rest of the way.

It's in looking back at His faithfulness that we can move confidently with hope into the future.

When the future looks foggy, look back. When we do, we gain vision for what is ahead. We record the evidence of His faithfulness to chart our way for the future. The path ahead will be marked as well.

There will be stones of remembrance to gather when we stop again further down the path. He has loved you too much to stop now. The One who brought you this far will keep going with you. Look back so you can keep going forward.

[www.GinaButz.com](http://www.GinaButz.com)

## MOLD our hearts

Psalm 90:12

When would be an ideal, undisturbed time to set aside for **renewing** your commitment to and passion for seeing spiritual movements everywhere?

## MOLD our hearts

Psalm 73:26

Has God given you some **goals for 2018**? Have you written them down? Talk with and listen to Him about believing Him and working toward them.

# Prayer *First*, Ministry *Second*

GACX Library Articles January 2017

Leaders are often overwhelmed with long hours of ministry. Keeping up with meetings and emails, and often travel commitments, can easily lead to neglect of personal prayer.

We see in Acts 6 that the fledgling church faced similar problems. Scripture tells us that the disciples were increasing in number. Within a few short weeks, the church had grown from 120 frightened disciples to literally thousands of believers with multitudes being added! (Acts 4:4; 5:15).

The twelve apostles were taking much of the responsibility serving tables and distributing food — but not very successfully. A dispute arose because one group of Greek-speaking Jews were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. They gathered the entire church together and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables...” (Acts 6:2). The apostles recommended appointing deacons to take care of the practical needs of the church. This would allow them to fulfill their calling as church leaders, and in verse four they announced, “But we will devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4).

The church was not concerned that its leaders were shirking responsibility. In fact, the next verse tells us that their plan to focus firstly on prayer and then the ministry of the word “pleased the whole gathering” (Acts 6:5).

But it was not just the whole church that was pleased with this arrangement! God graciously blessed their prayer focus as they continued to experience incredible fruitfulness in their ministry. As they obeyed God’s leading to be devoted to prayer and the ministry of the word, “the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7).

The life of Moses also demonstrates this theme of prayer first and ministry second. In Exodus 18, Moses was completely overwhelmed. He spent each day listening to people’s disputes and problems and trying to solve them. Moses’ father-in-law, Jethro, was appalled and asked him, “What is this that you are doing for the people?” (v.14). Jethro continued, “What you are doing is not good. You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone” (v.17-18).

Jethro proposed a leadership model that Moses immediately applied and God blessed. He said, “You shall represent the people before God and bring their cases to God, and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do” (v.19-20). Moses

## MOLD our hearts

1 Timothy 4:12

Pray for Epic (Asian American) and Destino (Latino and Hispanic) **conferences** (MLK weekend), and high school students at FastBreak (through 11 Mar).

## MOBILIZE others

James 1:5

Ask the Lord for **wisdom as Women’s Resources** plans and selects content, and carries out a social media strategy among Cru staff women.

## MOLD our hearts

Ephesians 1:3-6

Pray for South Asian students at **Design conference**, MLK weekend, in Kalamazoo, MI. [designmovement.org](http://designmovement.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/130758510948927/>

## MULTIPLY our lives

Hebrews 10:24

Pray for **increased engagement** across Cru Women’s Resources social medial platforms and that it will spur sisters on to love and good deeds.

was to “represent the people before God” – prayer, and he would then teach them how to “walk and what they must do” – ministry of the word.

The life of Jesus points to this essential and central theme of prayer first and ministry second.

These scriptures point to the fact that prayer is not an appendage to ministry life, but is central in Christian leadership. The life of Jesus points to this essential and central theme of prayer first and ministry second. Many of the crisis points in Jesus’s life were preceded by intense, personal prayer.

The disciples must have wondered about his prayer life as Jesus disappeared for lonely vigils on late nights and early mornings to commune with His Father. It led the disciples to ask, “Lord, teach us to pray...” (Luke 11:1). After the resurrection, the Holy Spirit, caused them to begin praying with a fervency modeled on their Lord’s example. If prayer was so important to Jesus, the very Son of God, how much more important is it for those called to serve His mission?

Time spent alone with God in regular, disciplined personal communion is the powerhouse of our ministry. It is the disciplined life in the secret place which sets the foundation for effective ministry in the public place.” Moses, the apostles’ testimony in Acts 6:4, and the life of Jesus Christ point to the profound importance of prayer in the life of a Christian leader. Prayer is the most important work in the Kingdom of God.

## Walking with God through Pain and Suffering

~ Tim Keller



“**Look at Jesus.** He was perfect, right? And yet he goes around crying all the time. He is always weeping, a man of sorrows. Do you know why? Because he is perfect. Because **when you are not all absorbed in yourself, you can feel the sadness of the world.** And therefore, what you actually have is that the joy of the Lord happens inside the sorrow. It doesn’t come after the sorrow. It doesn’t come after the uncontrollable weeping. **The weeping drives you into the joy,** it enhances the joy, and then the joy enables you to actually feel your grief without its sinking you. In other words, **you are finally emotionally healthy.**”

### MULTIPLY our lives

Psalm 82:3-4

**Oltalet Support Group** ministry to Kenyan orphans, widows and street children: pray for money to drill water wells, build a church and build a rescue center.

### MOBILIZE others

Romans 8:1-8

Ask our Heavenly Father to draw at least 31 **churches in Hawaii** to commit to one day each month to pray for 24 hours about walking in step with the Holy Spirit.

### MOLD our hearts

Ephesians 5:1

Prayerfully join Serene Jones and other evangelicals urging churches to address **abuse and violence** against people Jesus calls us to embrace and protect.

### MULTIPLY our lives

Ephesians 1:7-12

Pray with Cru’s marketplace ministry LeaderImpact for creation of **small group material** by summer.  
<https://www.cru.org/us/en/communities/ministries/leaderimpact.html>



“God has a vantage point that we don’t have. Any lack of communication with God is not on His part but from our lack of listening and receiving and following.”

~ John Ed Mathison



fernando pereira – unsplash

## Join the Pray2020 movement.

Start praying that the Lord would **MOLD** your heart to become one with His, **MULTIPLY** your life, and enable you to **MOBILIZE** others to do the same.

Why not set an alarm to remind you of this prayer at 20:20?

**Pray2020.org**

### MULTIPLY our lives

Ephesians 1:13-14

Start-up Guide: **LeaderImpact** is meeting in January with several other Cru leaders to create a guide to help leaders build movements in their cities.

### MULTIPLY our lives

Ephesians 2:8-10

Pray with AIA for outreach initiatives before, during and after the **2018 Winter Olympics**, 9-25 Feb, in Pyeongchang County, South Korea. [athletesinaction.org](http://athletesinaction.org)

### MULTIPLY our lives

Ephesians 1:15-21

Ask God to use Cru **East Asia Opportunities** Area Leadership Meetings in January to help meet the needs of movement leaders in that Area.

### MOBILIZE others

Ephesians 2:11-13

Pray with Cru **Global Fund Development** for greater local ownership and growing faith to move toward local generosity and sustainability.

### MULTIPLY our lives

Ephesians 2:1-7

Please pray that the Lord will enable effective **English-language training** for developing Area leaders, scheduled for 22 Jan - 16 Feb.

### MOBILIZE others

Ephesians 2:14-16

Lift up fund development training hosted by Cru **Western Europe Area** in January and a donor event hosted by **Indian leaders** and ministry partners.

**MOBILIZE others**

**Ephesians 2:17-22**

Please be in prayer even now for the logistics and planning of the **Cru 2018 Global Briefing** scheduled for July. Registrations will begin in February.

**MULTIPLY our lives**

**Ephesians 3:14-19**

Pray for **GAIN** sharing gospel hope and emergency food in South Sudan where rebel fighters drove out farmers and created severe food shortages. [gainusa.org](http://gainusa.org)

**MOLD our hearts**

**Colossians 2:6-7**

Pray for yourself and several people close to you to be more **deeply rooted in Christ** during 2018. Ask Him to enable us to be honest with ourselves and Him.

**MOBILIZE others**

**1 John 3:17-19**

Pray for 2,000 Cru Inner City **urban partners**—mostly men and women of color—who serve 24/7 in the urban cores of America via the urban church.

**MOLD our hearts**

**John 15:4**

May God grace Cru Area LDHR leaders with strength and discernment as they deal with complex people issues and seek Him to **develop Great Commission leaders**.

**MOBILIZE others**

**Ephesians 3:20-21**

**100% Sent:** Pray for training for Cru students transitioning out of university, planned for every region. <https://www.cru.org/us/en/communities/campus/lifeonmission.html>

**MULTIPLY our lives**

**Ephesians 3:1-7**

Praise God - through Cru Catalytic strategies (no local missionaries assigned) more than **1,500 new campuses** were opened in 2017!

**MOBILIZE others**

**Ephesians 4:1-6**

Ask God for **100% Sent campuses, cities and countries** in each Cru Area and for new, strong partnerships with other ministries not focused on students.

**MULTIPLY our lives**

**Ephesians 3:8-13**

Pray for Cru Catalytic to increase capacity/effectiveness in coaching toward spiritual multiplication as they make key **Catalytic resources** available digitally.

**MULTIPLY our lives**

**Ephesians 4:7-13**

**Cru Global Technology Leaders Conference, 19-21 Feb:** May the Holy Spirit prepare this critical network of capacity builders to grow and strengthen.

**MULTIPLY our lives**

**Ephesians 4:14-16**

May the **Indigitous** movement keep growing (technology, missions, faith) and the leadership team better serve local community leaders. <https://indigitous.org/>

**MOBILIZE others**

**Ephesians 4:25-29**

Cru **Global Church Movements** 2020 goals: Pray about planting 5 million new churches, a healthy one for every 1,000 people with an equipped, trained leader.

**MULTIPLY our lives**

**Ephesians 4:17-24**

Pray for Cru Global Digital Strategies goal of 2 million people known and moving through their **spiritual multiplication pathways** by 31 December 2018.

**MULTIPLY our lives**

**Ephesians 4:30-32**

Cru **Bold Moves** global conference, 27 Feb - 2 Mar: Exploring how to move toward above goals by boldly multiplying, expanding, leading and maximizing partnerships.

## Called to the Great Commission. Called to prayer.

*Personal needs ...*

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*Requests to share ...*

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*Church, group or team needs ...*

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*Answers to share ...*

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**God works through the prayers** of His people to ignite spiritual movements. As Spirit-filled disciples “pray without ceasing,” the Lord increases faith, causes growth and brings about fruitfulness to glorify Himself (John 15:1-17).

**Stories are the building blocks of all movements.** The early church multiplied as the stories about Jesus spread everywhere. It continues to grow alongside stories of what He is doing now.

**The Global Prayer team invites you to:**

► **Share stories** of God answering prayer. Please email a brief summary of the story to [global.prayer@cru.org](mailto:global.prayer@cru.org) and we will contact you before passing along your story.

**Global Prayer**

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