

Nations & Generations Recast 2024

In this two week series we are going to reexamine and recommit to some specific goals we have as our way of making and growing followers of Jesus through our Nations & Generations vision.

Week 1: Asking for Nations

1. **GOD'S "NATIONS" AGENDA: Read Genesis 18:18, Psalm 86:9, Isaiah 66:18, and Matthew 12:21.** How does this broader view of God's mission affect the way we see our role in the community and the world? Follow up: How can you personally contribute to the church's vision of reaching out to different nations and cultures in our community?
2. ***The gospel's aim is to give God the global, multi-ethnic family He wants. Read Matthew 28:18-19.*** How does this statement challenge or expand your view of the purpose of the gospel? Follow up: **Read Revelation 7:9-10.** How can this glimpse of the future God wants (and will get) help us take more intentional steps towards that today?
3. **OUR "NATIONS' STATUS:**

Goal 1: See 1825 people surrender to Christ and be baptized. So far, we have witnessed **1104 baptisms through the first 989 days of our vision.** Thank God for this and take a moment to pray for the "1's" you know who still need to surrender and take this next step.

Goal 2: Become a multi-ethnic church. Our recent survey revealed that we are **77%** white and **23%** people of other ethnicities. For those under 40 the number is 69% / 31%. Take a moment to ask God to help us break down any walls in our hearts that make it hard for us to welcome people of all ethnicities.

Goal 3: Be a church of at least 5 campuses. Our 4th campus launched in Dallas last month! Spend a few moments praying for this campus, spread the word and be praying for campus number 5. Follow up: How does the multi-campus model contribute to the church's overall vision of reaching nations and generations?

Goal 4: Engage members as advocates for 25 asylum-seeking families or individuals in our community. To date we have served 24 asylum-seeking families as advocates from 15 different nations. In what ways can our small group participate in supporting asylum-seeking families or becoming advocates for them in our community? Pray for DASH. In what ways might this ministry change our perspective on "reaching nations"?



Goal 5: Help launch and/or support 15 new multi-ethnic church plants. In the first three years of our vision, **we have helped plant 12 new churches. Last year the 18 new churches we are supporting averaged 3,823 in attendance and baptized 676 people!** How does helping to plant multi-ethnic churches align with our vision for the nations, and how can we as a small group support church planting efforts locally or globally?

Goal 6: Support the Livingstone International University community in Uganda through prayer and by sending 20 members to teach, equip, and encourage. We have sent 12 of our members so far. Is this something God might be asking you to do? Follow up: How can we support the LIU community through prayer and other forms of involvement, even if we are not physically present there?

Goal 7: Reach the unreached by launching and supporting 5 church planting movements and by supporting Bible translation efforts in 5 new languages. We are currently supporting 4 of each of those with a 5th to be added by the end of the year. Praise God for the success in this area so far and for the seeds that are being planted.

NOTE: The “unreached” are defined as peoples in a land that is less than 2% Christian. 42% of the world is “unreached”, and 26% live where it is .1% Christian. Yet only 3% of global workers are sent to the unreached, and only 1.8% of monies raised for global outreach is spent there.

Follow up: Rick mentioned that only a small percentage of global workers and funds go to unreached people groups. How does our church's focus on the unreached challenge conventional mission strategies, and what might be the long-term impact of this approach?

4. Which of these seven goals resonate with you the most? Why? Follow up: If you have personally been involved in one of these goals already, share that experience. What has God been teaching you during this season of ministry?
5. Ask God this question, *What next step should I take to engage with one of these goals more in the next year?* Then take 1-2 minutes in silence listening for a response or an impression. Follow up: What is something God might be asking you to consider doing?
6. **THE “NATIONS” CHALLENGE: Read Acts 2:1-8, 11-18, 21 and reflect on these 3 challenges. (1) God’s mission is the pursuit of all nations. (2) Jesus is building a church that will pursue God’s mission. (3) The Spirit is pursuing the church for the sake of the mission.** How do you see these three aspects working together in our church's vision and activities? In what ways can we more intentionally align ourselves with each aspect of this divine mission?
7. **Asking for nations and generation means asking for the continued filling and empowering of the Spirit of God.** How can we, as individuals and as a church, actively seek the Spirit's empowerment for this vision? Spend some time praying together!

