

BREAKTHROUGH Opportunities

6 proposals to powerfully engage church potential

“We are looking for global opportunities where our church could help precipitate a major breakthrough,” the missions pastor said. “Could your agency present a few, key priorities instead of a long list of needs? We want to know your most strategic opportunities, the places where our people and resources might have greatest impact.”

Similar desires have been articulated by other church missions leaders. They may be inundated with requests. But they are looking for a few priorities that offer high potential impact through partnership.

Catalyst Issues Breakthrough Challenge

To spotlight strategic opportunities, last fall Catalyst initiated a contest of sorts. We invited agencies to submit church-partnership proposals featuring places to fast-forward significant breakthrough. Because this was our first effort and essentially an experiment, we limited the invitations so as not to be overwhelmed. By the deadline, 17 proposals were submitted.

Four missions pastors agreed to serve as a selection team (pg. 8). They began by defining their criteria for strategic breakthrough opportunities. Then each member independently reviewed and evaluated all the proposals. Their scores were tallied and the entries with the highest scores were then critiqued together as a team. They first anticipated choosing three winners, but **the selection team eventually chose six they considered winners.** They were pleased

that these six represented a broad variety of ministries and global locations.

Learning from the Process

As they shared their critique comments, the selection team realized that they were learning from each other and that the aggregated comments constituted what they hoped would be valuable insights for improvement. In an attempt to heighten the value not only for winners but everyone else too, it was decided to give the writers of these six proposals an opportunity to review the judges' comments and rework their proposal, if they chose.

The final versions of the six winning proposals are published in the following pages in summary form. At the end of each proposal is contact information for the person who can answer questions and provide additional details. Also included is a link for those who would like to read the original proposal and judges' comments.

Churches—Pursue a Breakthrough!

This process will ultimately be fruitful only if churches engage with these strategic opportunities.

If you represent a local church, will you pray about responding to one of these breakthrough invitations? There is urgency to respond. Your church could precipitate a breakthrough!

February 2016

Transform Radvanka, Ukraine

Agency: International Teams

Why this is a strategic, breakthrough opportunity

Although the Roma are still listed as an unreached people group, something is happening in Zakarpattia (Ukraine & Romania). Roma are coming to Christ in large numbers, and our project is right in the heart of the revival. Last year the three Roma churches we work with in Radvanka doubled in size. Ten percent of the Uzhansky Roma Camp are now believers, nearly twice the national average. Christ is at work in these communities and they are now penetrating farther into Hungary and Slovakia.

Our work is holistic. We empower local leaders to break the chains of poverty, oppression, and spiritual darkness so that no one is invisible and everyone has access to food, freedom, and forgiveness. Roma churches face many hardships and challenges. By equipping them to be agents of change in Radvanka, we can create models and empower leaders that can impact the Roma throughout Europe.

Church DNA that matches this opportunity

We have an alliance of churches, NGOs, and individuals working together to transform Radvanka by the power of God. So we are looking for partner churches that have community transformation and networking in their DNA. Partnership begins with a shared vision for transforming Radvanka, and a special focus on the Roma churches. Patience and love are needed when working with Roma Christian communities. A partner church must understand (or be willing to learn) how to empower others rather than doing things for them. That means coming in as learners, not just doers. With this kind of approach, partnership can give the N American church fresh eyes to see their own context and discover new ways to address brokenness within their own community.

Expectations of church partners

The pastor needs to build a mentoring relationship with the local Roma pastor, teaching how to proactively transform the community they live in, rather than just react to the various organizations that promise "goodies." They need teams to come and help them in projects and training which will require financial investment as well. Through a minimum four-year commitment, a partner church can help empower one or more of these growing Roma churches to become an effective agent of transformation in their community.

Most-strategic longer-term workers needed

Our team works alongside indigenous churches and local NGOs in identifying assets/needs and developing priorities.

The partner church's greatest impact would be to provide a full-time kingdom worker to be involved daily with these local churches. This long-term worker can provide resources and training to meet needs, and communicate effectively with the North American partner church.

Most-strategic mid-term workers needed

- Education: work with Roma school (only 10% of Roma children attend school)
- Youth work: work with Roma church to develop ministry
- Humanitarian aid: work with local churches to define need
- Business expertise: help with job creation and micro-loan programs

How short-termers or people at home might contribute

- Engineer teams: road work, wells, playgrounds
- Medical teams: dental, TB testing, hygiene training, etc.
- Summer camp teams and VBS teams
- Pastoral training

How on-site partners will facilitate this partnership

Our team has been in Uzhgorod for nearly a decade and within Ukraine for two decades; we have a good understanding of the culture. We have developed an alliance of local churches, NGOs, and individuals who are committed to working together in transforming the Roma communities. In its first two years, this Alliance has worked primarily in the largest camp. Because projects were done through the Roma churches, they have seen the number of believers double.

How our agency will assist a church in this partnership

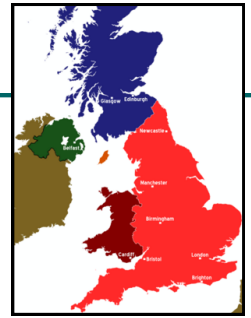
Partnership is fundamental to how we fulfill our mission. Therefore, a representative from the home office and a field-based facilitator will work with the church through the partnership development process that may include: (1) upfront communication regarding a clear vision, goals, strategic plan, needs, and opportunities, (2) an initial vision trip, (3) pre-field short-term team consulting, (4) shared planning and intended outcomes, (5) collaboration with multiple ex-pat churches, (6) consultation on developing a focus team and releasing untapped potential, (7) written agreements and evaluation.

Partnership timing We are ready to start tomorrow.

Click [here](#) for original proposal and judges' comments



February 2016



Engage: Urban Multicultural Mission in the UK

Agency: SIM

Opportunity location

The breakthrough opportunity is with 10-20 local churches across the UK. For example:

- In London, a church-planting network, 'Co-mission,' understands that mission in London is necessarily multi-cultural and diverse, and calls for people willing to work amongst diaspora. They need cross-cultural workers for new planting teams.
- In Glasgow, Harper Memorial Church with over 50% Mirpuri Pakistanis living in their area are calling for workers with experience in outreach.
- Myton Evangelical Church in Warwick wants to reach out to the large Hindu community in their area.
- St Helen's Bishopsgate has 80,000 Sylhet-speakers in Tower Hamlets and seeks cross-cultural missionaries to join their multi-cultural outreach team in Brick Lane.
- In Oldham (greater Manchester), Bethel Church needs workers to reach the wider community, 10% of whom are Bangladeshi and 80% Pakistani, living on their doorstep.

Why this is a strategic, breakthrough opportunity

It is estimated that the UK is 3% evangelical Christian.

Building on ethnographic and sociological research into urban centres across Britain, the program is aimed at serving churches in their local and global missionary vision:

- engaging diaspora people who have no one to tell them the gospel in UK—such as Mirpuri Pakistani, Somali, Bangladeshi (Sylheti), Indian, Iranians, and refugees
- equipping urban, church-based mission workers for world-wide ministry in the context of the church community

There is also key reciprocity value for a partner church, serving from the side-lines and equipping them to reach into their own multi-cultural mission context.

Church DNA that matches this opportunity

Churches committed to:

- God's gospel about Jesus Christ as Lord, revealed in the Scriptures
- depending on God's Spirit to enable effective ministry through prayer
- Church-centred obedience to Christ's great commission by showing and telling the gospel

- Christ-like discipleship through relational Bible teaching
- reaching unengaged diaspora peoples in multi-cultural urban contexts
- developing their ability to work effectively with Christians of different ethnicity, culture, and professional training towards the same goals

Expectations of church partners

Churches who send an individual or couple to one of these contexts will be asked to pray and support the missionaries.

The church's specific relationship with the receiving church and their responsibilities will be clarified in full through a Partnership Agreement agreed by all parties in advance of placement. UK churches will receive people/couples as one of their own church family, joining a multi-cultural ministry team, serving in whatever capacity they serve in relational cross-cultural outreach through their community life.

Most strategic mid-term workers needed

Christians familiar with the challenges of urban living. Professional background will also afford opportunities for mission in and through the workplace.

How on-site partners will facilitate this partnership

Serving in Mission (SIM UK) will assist the receiving church by facilitating in-country orientation, placement, mentoring, and training of the urban multi-cultural worker as part of a national program.

Each candidate will be assigned an SIM mentor, meeting on a six-week basis to discuss their progress in reaching out with the gospel to the target people and their Personal Development Plan.

How our agency will assist a church in this partnership

SIM will facilitate the setting up of the Mission Agreement hand-in-hand with the sending church and receiving context, and a Personal Development Plan for the sent individual or couple.

Partnership timing 2-year programme (September-July)

Note: The length of placement is strictly limited by UK visa requirements; overstaying would damage the credibility of SIM UK with the UK government.

Contact: engage@sim.co.uk

Click [here](#) for original proposal and judges' comments

February 2016

Sustainable Center for Addiction Recovery Masatepe, Nicaragua

Agency: International Teams

Why this is a strategic, breakthrough opportunity

Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. In Masatepe, the result of decades of 50% unemployment, and the lack of basic necessities and opportunities can be seen everywhere. Alcoholism and drug abuse are rampant. It's estimated that 80 men live on the streets because they are refused by their families when they repeatedly return home intoxicated. Each morning the gutters are littered with empty bottles and men passed out from the night before.

A Recovery Center, built by a non-profit group that left town years ago, lies vacant. The property includes facilities to host as many as 60-70 men along with six acres of farmable land. Our goal is to purchase and revitalize this property, and establish a program to break the grip of addiction for those who are ready for a way out. This will require partnering with the local government, the police, local NGOs, and especially the local church in order to transform men and their families.

We believe this project can succeed where past attempts have failed by including farm responsibilities and by using farm income to cover costs. Effectively addressing this problem will not only change the broken lives of men and families, but will be a critical element in literally transforming an entire community. We envision it will serve as a model for future projects in other communities.

Church DNA that matches this opportunity

Churches are needed with a mission-and-compassion DNA, and who believe in using integrated approaches to meet the physical, social, and spiritual needs of the oppressed. Such partners will need to have a passion for solving a difficult social problem matched by a deep appreciation for the value of local knowledge, skills, and resources.

Expectations of church partners

Commitment to walking alongside Nicaraguan church leaders as they mobilize their volunteers. A four-year minimum commitment is needed for long-term success. Financial resources, short-term teams, and church members who are passionate and knowledgeable about addiction recovery and freeing the enslaved will be needed.

Church partners are also asked to embrace a full community transformation vision in addition to this single project. As additional strategic opportunities arise, partners can offer expertise and resources in the areas of education, health, and business.

Most-strategic longer-term workers needed

- A ministry developer to help oversee the project and develop the local leaders needed for long-term sustainability.
- Ministry developers to oversee community transformation efforts in (a) education, (b) health/medical, and (c) church health/disciple-making.

Most-strategic mid-term workers needed

We anticipate that 1-3-year workers may be needed to supplement and develop local leaders. They would help with sustainable farming and business aspects of the program, as well as host short-term teams. Those with experience in addiction recovery can supplement the ministry of locals.

How short-termers or people at home might contribute

Early in this partnership, short-term teams will build relationships with church leaders, learn more of the context, and work together to identify assets and resources within local churches that can contribute to this project's success. Other short-term teams will work with locals to prepare the facilities, set up and implement an effective farm, and provide training for addiction recovery staff/volunteers.

Economic development is a strong component of our current ministry. A café/coffee shop and international coffee [product sales](#) provide new hope and dignity to several families. Partner churches could assist and generate revenue for the Recovery Center by selling fantastic coffee and other unique products.

How on-site partners will facilitate this partnership

Pastors representing over 30 churches have formed Fuente de Vida (Fountain of Life) to get their people out into the community. Partnering with this project will mean partnering with these local church leaders.

Our on-the-ground community transformation [directors](#) have been living in Masatepe for three years and have tremendous relationships in the community to build on.

How our agency will assist a church in this partnership

Partnership is fundamental to how we fulfill our mission. Therefore, someone from our home office and a field-based facilitator will work with the church throughout the partnership.

Partnership timing: Launch anticipated in early 2016.

Click [here](#) for original proposal and judges' comments



February 2016

Prayer and Gospel Saturation Mapping Team

Agency: Global Gates

Opportunity location: Major North American global gateway cities like New York City, DC/Baltimore, San Francisco, Houston, Dallas/Fort Worth, Austin.

Why this is a strategic, breakthrough opportunity

While the unreached people groups of the world have been arriving in N American cities for a long time, many of them have remained unreached for decades despite proximity to many Christians and churches here. We are working with the Mapping Center for Evangelism and Church Growth to better utilize and develop their software for effective prayer and gospel saturation among Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, Sikhs, and Hindus in North American cities. With the software, we can pinpoint names and addresses of households that fit different ethnic, linguistic, or religious specifications we are focusing on.

Saturation team members will help with very focused prayer (praying for households by name) and/or help with mailing/visitation campaigns to filter interest in the gospel so our long-term teams of missionaries and indigenous Christians can personally follow up with very interested seekers. The end goal is reproducible church-planting among these focus groups in strategic US cities and through these gateways to the ends of the earth.

Church DNA that matches this opportunity

Any would work, but helps if the church has a specific interest in a people group or religious group that matches one of our focused ministry efforts. Local churches located in these cities could be involved in each level of partnership with our missionary teams.

Expectations of church partners

At the basic level, receive lists of household names to pray for. On the financial or administrative level, help fund and/or man the mailing campaigns. A mailing campaign could look something like this:

- 100 Bangladeshi Muslim households—Mail a postcard offering a free Jesus film or Bible in their language. Those interested respond via email or phone. A same/near-culture Christian or missionary personally delivers the gift.

- Next 100 households—Pray for three months. Then send a postcard asking if they want to become a follower of Jesus or want to meet with a Christian to study the Bible.
- Next 100 households—Have people pray for 100 households in a Bangladeshi Muslim enclave and send in a team of evangelists the next week to go door by door to homes, businesses, parks, to share the gospel.
- On the short-term or local level, participate in organized visitation campaigns to households being prayed for. This will include training in culturally-appropriate customs and evangelism methods by same-culture believers or experienced missionaries who work among the focus people group or religious demographic.

How short-termers or people at home might contribute

We need prayer warriors and people who have time to stuff/address mailers. Local churches and believers could contribute through weekend outreach campaigns in coordination with prayer and mailing campaigns. Short-term teams from outside these cities might spend a week or weekend on-site engaging focus households. Training and coaching would be provided by local missionary teams or indigenous Christians from the focus groups.

How on-site partners will facilitate this partnership

On-site missionary teams coordinate the involvement of volunteers at each level. Many of our teams have experience mobilizing prayer for their focus people groups. They can train and equip local churches of various ethnicities. They can prepare short-term teams for culturally-appropriate gospel engagement.

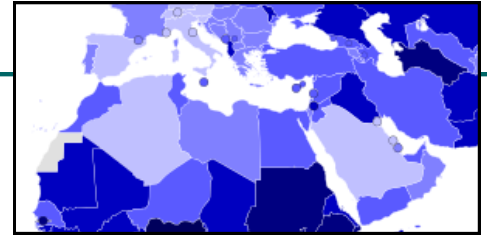
Partnership timing: Fall 2015 onward

Contact email: info@globalgates.info,
mapping@globalgates.info

Click [here](#) for original proposal and judges' comments



February 2016



Reaching the Unreached in N Africa, the Middle East, and Beyond

Agency: Streams of Living Water (SLW) is Pioneers' Mobilization Center for North Africa/Middle East (N.A.M.E.). Based inside the Arab world, we equip disciple-makers through mobilizing, training, and sending Arab-world believers.

Our multi-pronged mobilization strategy and movement is developed and led by a team of key indigenous believers. The strategy focuses on central mobilization events (annual missions and prayer conferences gathering Arabic-speaking Christians from around the region), in depth-training (Tyrannus and Streams Missionary Schools), personalized placement, and care designed for cross-cultural workers sent from the Arab world.

Why this is a strategic, breakthrough opportunity

Many Muslims are questioning their beliefs and seeking answers. But for breakthrough, we believe it is essential we mobilize the Arabic-speaking church to reach their region. Last September we hosted a missions conference with over a thousand national believers. Since then, 25 have entered our school to train for full-time service.

Our vision is to produce church-planting movements through discipleship within churches that intentionally develop leaders who in turn plant more indigenous churches. Through these efforts, God is multiplying indigenous workers who are being trained in church planting that encourages multiplication. Local churches and individual partners can engage with one aspect of our ministry or partner with us on an ongoing basis in multiple areas of this mobilization strategy.

Church DNA that matches this opportunity

- SLW seeks gospel partnerships with churches based on mutual respect and love.
- SLW values passion for God, unreached peoples, church planting, local-church partnerships, teamwork, innovation, flexibility, participatory servant leadership, and a culture of grace.

Expectations of church partners

Short-termers serve in international cities where foreign travelers are common; however, security training and awareness is required. Pictures, names, and locations cannot be posted online for the safety of our indigenous workers.

Most-strategic longer-term workers needed

- A gifted, self-funded administrator to help organize and manage our home office in the heart of the N.A.M.E. region.
- Arabic-speaking individuals (or those willing to learn Arabic) are invited to join our multicultural teams.

Most-strategic mid-term workers needed

Kingdom professionals in the medical field are invited to help provide free clinics and health education, which serve as tangible expressions of Christ's love for impoverished communities and a platform for evangelistic outreach.

Ways short-termers or people at home might contribute

- People at home are needed to adopt, pray, and financially sponsor students in our Tyrannus Missionary School.
- Guest speakers who have a passion to teach God's Word and equip His people are needed for our annual Mobilization Conference (usually in September) and our Prayer Conference (March 29-April 2, 2016). Translation is provided for English speakers. Other participants from partnering churches are also invited for these conferences.
- Short-term individuals and teams are needed to help provide conferences for children, middle school, and high school students (these run concurrently with our adult conferences).
- Qualified Bible teachers and pastors are needed to help teach in our schools (usually for 1-2 weeks; translation is provided for English speakers). Churches seeking long-term partnership can send qualified Bible teachers on a regular basis.
- Passionate individuals at home are invited to join our team of prayer partners and advocates sharing the testimonies of God's work through SLW, giving generously, and interceding faithfully for our indigenous co-laborers.

How on-site partners will facilitate this partnership

Our on-site team excels in the area of hospitality, facilitating lodging, meals, and transportation for short-term workers and guest speakers in partnership with local ministry leaders.

How our agency will assist a church in this partnership

Our N American advocates provide missions resources, training, and help with cultural contextualization for short-term workers. Pioneers trains workers serving one year or longer.

Other pertinent information

"A great door for effective work" has opened for SLW to launch two new missionary training schools in strategic locations this year. This increases our spiritual-breakthrough potential and increases the great need for prayer, sponsorship, and partnership with short- or long-term trainers.

Click [here](#) for original proposal and judges' comments

February 2016

**Specifically for
Canadian Churches**

Heart for Cambodia Initiative

Agency: OMF International (Canada)

Why this is a strategic, breakthrough opportunity

There is no local church in 86% of Cambodia's rural villages and the country is notorious for its high levels of government corruption. Twentieth-century genocide and civil war have left deep emotional scars on the Cambodian population. It is one of the world's poorest countries, and the abuse of women and children in the sex trade is rampant. Mature leadership for the national church is also a challenge.

The current demand for English teaches offers a strategic, potential breakthrough opportunity for the N American church to address Cambodia's needs. Opportunity is greatest for teaching English to university students in Phnom Penh and to government officials.

These opportunities have a high multiplication potential. The majority of graduates from the Royal University of Phnom Penh will become high-school teachers in rural Cambodia. Reaching these students now has tremendous potential for future breakthroughs across large areas of the country. Teaching English to government officials builds relationships and influence with those responsible for policy development and who could address this nation's crippling corruption.

Teachers need only to be English speakers with ESL certification. A variety of other professions can meaningfully contribute, so a church partner can engage broad participation of its members.

Church DNA that matches this opportunity

- "Synergistic" with a desire for a high level of focused global missions engagement
- Strong emphasis (current or desired) on discipleship
- Culture (current or desired) of leadership development
- Significant number of young people (younger, college-aged students will be the most suitable to teach English to Cambodian university students)
- Significant number of semi- or early-retired people (in Cambodian culture, teaching English to largely middle-aged government officials is most appropriately done by people who are older or similar in age)
- Current or desired missions focus on Cambodia, Southeast Asia, or East Asia
- Culture (current or desired) of strategic, regular prayer

Expectations of church partners

- Willing to establish a written partnership agreement
- Alignment with OMF International's vision, mission, and core values
- Commitment to mobilizing from within their congregation to address the needs of the initiative
- Commitment to investing financially in the people they send and any related projects

Most-strategic longer-term workers needed

- *English teachers* will be the most strategic (ESL certification will be required)
- University professors
- Church planters/Community workers
- Home-school teachers (crucial to enabling long-term rural church planters with families to stay on the field)
- Social workers and counselors (largely through on-site partners)
- Doctors, nurses, and other medical workers (largely through on-site partners)

Most strategic mid-term workers for this initiative

English teachers, home school teachers, social workers, counselors, doctors, nurses, and other medical workers as above

Ways short-termers or people at home might contribute

Short-term teams (English camps and VBS-style programs) and one-year internships

How on-site partners will facilitate partnership

A local urban church will receive ST teams and interns. A Christian medical centre in Phnom Penh will receive medical personnel. A local ministry serving girls rescued from the sex industry will welcome counselors and social workers.

How our agency will assist a church in this partnership

- Facilitate the sending of annual short-term teams with appropriate pre-trip training and post-trip debriefing
- Encourage the church to be part of a network of churches
- Facilitate bi-annual vision trips for church leaders

Partnership timing: Beginning fall, 2016; a minimum 5-year commitment is requested

Click [here](#) for original proposal and judges' comments



February 2016

Thank You to All Proposal Writers

We want to commend everyone who invested the time and effort to submit a proposal. We hope that all of you benefitted from the process. Our goal was to stimulate more high-level dialog between agencies and churches about how to strategically engage church potential.

The Selection Team

We want to thank the members of our team that took their task very seriously and invested significant time in the process:

RB

North Park Community Church
London, Ontario

Matthew Philip

Trinity Church, Lansing, MI



Scott White

Lake Avenue Presbyterian Church
Pasadena, CA

Note: This is **not** the S White who submitted proposals

Faith Wise

Providence Church, West Chester, PA



Shall We Do This Again?

This contest could be repeated, if churches and agencies consider it valuable. Having many churches engage with these projects is one way to encourage us to offer another breakthrough challenge. If these proposals are useful to you, would you [email us](#)?

If repeated, we will anticipate opening the contest to welcome any submission. We apologize to those who may be disappointed not to have been included on this first effort.

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