



WHY SERVE GLOBALLY?

Scriptural Introduction

In the beginning God made life. Ordered, intimate, relational, productive life. Out of the primordial chaos God called forth creation in all its beauty, complexity, creativity, and fulfilling purpose. Made in God's own image, humans embodied all of this with one additional gift – choice.

We live with the results of those choices today. While in essence still reflecting God's image, humanity has chosen selfishly again and again. Instead of order, we have called forth injustice, inequity, and instability, bringing chaos back into our lives, our relationships, our cultures, and into all of creation.

But the Creator won't abandon this world. The first question God speaks to shame-filled humanity describes the seeking heart of God, 'Where are you?' God initiates reconciliation. Throughout Scripture God calls out with grace, mercy, warnings, and invitations throughout Scripture. In human form, God entered our chaos to restore order at all levels. Through the gift of the Spirit, God's restorative global mission continues. God never stops asking that missional question of every person, every culture, every religion, and every institutional structure, 'Where are you? Will you join in my reconciling work in the world? Will you be part of the reordering of creation? How will you choose to spend the life that I gave you?'



Practical implications

God has spoken, God has invited, and God has prepared a work for each of us in this restorative movement. What does it mean for us, the church, to participate in God's mission in the world today?

- 1. Sharing the Good News.** We strive to share what is truly good about the gospel of grace and reconciliation in today's world. For many, the term missions conjures up colonialism, forced conversion, and cultural destruction rather than the proclamation and demonstration of God's Kingdom at hand. A correct understanding of God's mission includes righting historical wrongs while living out God's saving love, unconditional mercy, and striving for peace with justice - an authentic gospel.
- 2. Mutual Transformation.** At the heart of God's mission is humility and the desire for all people to be reconciled to Christ and to one another. Because God initiated mission, we are not pioneers but partners. This posture of partnership acknowledges that all of us are equal before God, and that everyone (including Christ-followers) needs God's transforming grace. In light of the unbalanced scales of history, we seek relational commitments with international partners for mutual support, encouragement, empowerment, and maturity.
- 3. Holistic Mission.** The good news of God's reconciling mission reaches all aspects of creation regardless of race, gender, creed, or condition. As a result, the church's role in God's mission includes the spiritual and the social, but must also include the physical, the institutional, the economic, and all other dimensions of our existence. Ministry with the poor and oppressed is authentic gospel work, so we affirm creative evangelism and an uncompromising commitment to compassion and justice.
- 4. Relational Immersion.** Because God did not stay distant, God's mission calls for proximity. This looks like people who live out the gospel contextually, lovingly, and effectively. The diversity of cultures in our world requires building trust, finding commonalities, and leaning into the rich diversity of differences. Incarnational mission means living among those whom God has called us to serve, committing to lifelong learning, relational growth, and sacrifice.
- 5. Global and Local.** In the age of globalization, our world is as much "right here" as it is "over there." To participate in God's mission is to engage with the world in our own neighborhoods and communities, to serve alongside partners across the globe, and to send some to the ends of the earth. Whether its refugees, students, the working class, or business professionals, we seek to equip the intercultural church to engage and serve here and abroad.

Why Serve Globally?

The Evangelical Covenant Church is committed to the whole mission of God. Since our inception, mission has been a central organizing motivation. We were originally known as Mission Friends, friends that study Scripture and seek to live it out authentically by caring well for our neighbor. As Serve Globally we are committed

to the mission of the Covenant by joining God and the global church in God's mission to see more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world.

Serve Globally consists of six ministries that facilitate our engagement in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and Middle East North Africa. Through sending, relief and development and equipping local congregations we join with individuals, our 850+ Covenant congregations and partners in over 50 countries so that together we can do more than we can do alone. The prayers, gifts and service of individuals and churches are transformed into amazing opportunities through the expertise, gifts, and service of our long-standing global partners in their contexts leading to the thriving of countless lives and flourishing of whole communities, thus edifying us as the Church.

God is at work in powerful ways in the world! It is an honor to join God's work through our global partners and personnel. Below is a snapshot of our six ministries within Serve Globally. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can be part of God's transformative work in ways that align with your heart!

So why do we need the world? To give purpose to life, to participate in God's kingdom work on earth, to effect change, and for our own on-going transformation.

Serve Globally

GLOBAL PERSONNEL

Connecting Covenant congregations to God's work in the world through global personnel and international partners.

- 95 global personnel
- Partnerships in over 35 countries

covchurch.org/mission

COVENANT WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

Partners in Transformation.

Ongoing community development and disaster relief in over 30 countries.

Focus areas include:

- Agriculture and food security
- Children
- Clean water
- Disaster response
- Anti-human trafficking
- Microenterprise
- Peacemaking and reconciliation
- Women's empowerment

covchurch.org/cwrd

COVENANT KIDS CONGO

Change a Child's Life. Transform Your Own.

Sponsor a child in DR Congo for \$39/month and support these initiatives:

- Agriculture
- Child protection
- Economic empowerment
- Education
- Mother and child health
- Sanitation and hygiene
- Water

covchurch.org/covenantkidscongo

CENTER FOR WORLD CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Engaging in Multidirectional Mutual Mission.

Providing resources in mission education for seminarians, global personnel, churches, and global partners through:

- Online, travel, and regional courses in missiology
- Certificate and degree programs
- Intercultural competency assessment and guidance
- Qualified associates available to train at your venue

northpark.edu/seminary/seminary-centers/center-for-world-christian-studies

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENTS

Short-Term Trips. Long-Term Impact.

Providing uniquely designed resources to strengthen partnerships with God's global missional purposes for cultivating mission intentionality and discipleship.

- Merge (5-10 days)
- Re-Vision Trips (5-10 days)
- Global Internships (3-12 months)
- Global Immersions (3-12 months)

covchurch.org/global-engagements

PAUL CARLSON PARTNERSHIP

Catalyzing the holistic growth of healthy families and communities in places of deep poverty, we invest in local efforts in medical and economic development. We partner with the Covenant Church of Congo by supporting:

- Hospitals, clinics, and nursing schools
- Solar electricity and clean water
- Training through Medical Ambassadors
- Transportation infrastructure
- Agriculture, economic development, and food security

paulcarlson.org

QUESTIONS? Email serveglobally@covchurch.org, or call (773) 784-3000 for more information.

