

For immediate release

Morning Missional Moments:
Global Prayer at Daybreak

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The world came to my home this morning, and I touched it through prayer – not through labored ritual but through the lessons of life-routine. In the first hour of my morning, globalization entered my home and personal space, even from my waking moments. In the regular habits and routines that started my day, God provided ways for me to be involved in His work in my world through five intercessory prayer starters as *morning missional moments*: Coffee, CNN, Conveniences, Clothing, and Commodities.

Coffee (or whatever your morning starter)

I'm not a coffee expert but I know that the good stuff comes from places like Kenya, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Jamaica, and Sumatra. So this morning, as I woke up with my coffee and my Bible, I prayed for the countries that most likely produced my daily brew, along with my own country that provided the cream and sugar. I thought of the believers and church leaders I had met in those places and asked God to bless and keep them. I prayed for the coffee farmers and day laborers (maybe some of them Evangelicals/Pentecostals?), especially those living below the poverty line. I prayed that buyers and consumers would understand that the suppliers need fair market prices in an age of economic globalization and the grinding competition in the international marketplace. I thought of the young people I have seen at the attractive coffee shops around the world and prayed that the gospel would penetrate their unique subculture.

This morning, my coffee was a cause for global intercession.

CNN (or whatever your news source)

Global data comes at us in varied media: cable news sources, network TV, public radio, internet news headlines, and iphone apps. This morning, news of a major earthquake came from Nepal and India, and there was yet another story of a suicide bombing in Afghanistan. So, I paused to pray for Nepal, India, and Afghanistan. It has been said that the globally-aware world Christian has a newspaper in one hand and a Bible in the other (more on this in my free online missions eBook at www.globalbeliever.com, "Read the book").

This morning the communication networks were my pathway to prayer.

Conveniences

Turning on the bathroom light and starting the shower, I thought of the conveniences of the utility services and prayed for those who keep things running in my community. I reflected on a good night's sleep in a peaceful neighborhood protected by dedicated law enforcement, fire and rescue personnel and I prayed for them. Today is garbage collection day so I prayed for those workers, for those who keep our streets and city/county services in operation, and for the city/county government officials, remembering that the Apostle Paul sent greetings from, "Erastus, who is the city's director of public works..." (Romans 16:23 NIV). I heard a school bus go down the street and prayed for the administrators, teachers, and students in our city and county that is becoming more multicultural by the month. Convenience providers in my city, state, and nation are a part of my world. As a "glocal" (global/local) believer, I also pray for them.

This morning I prayed for the convenience providers in the mission field where I live.

Clothing

As I dressed, my thoughts turned to those less fortunate, in places where the conveniences of clean water, available electricity, a stable government with order, protection, social services, and a quality education are limited or non-existent. Brothers and sisters in my global Christian family live in those nations, producing clothes (sometimes in substandard factories and "sweat shops") that they themselves could never afford - for others living in faraway "fashion-style" spots. Some of my family may even be laboring at textile mills in the countries listed on the labels of my clothes: Bangladesh, Egypt, Vietnam, Honduras, and Mexico. My clothing labels became my prayer list.

This morning I prayed for the countries that clothed me, asking God to cloth their peoples with grace and the life-changing, socially transforming gospel of Jesus Christ.

Commodities

At breakfast, the raisins on our oatmeal came from Turkey, the cereal bowls were crafted in Thailand and the spoons were made in Taiwan. As we gave thanks for the food, Janice and I also prayed for those nations. After breakfast, we selected a "daily promise" from the "Bread of Life" loaf. Scripture promises, curiously enough, printed in China! I thought of my last trip to a Christian bookstore where I found the "indispensable" amenities of my "middle class cultural Christianity:" jewelry, toys and trinkets, curios, home décor and artwork, and devotional books that are produced in that country that persecutes and jails our brothers and sisters. Our breakfast commodities reminded us to pray for one of the world's largest and least-evangelized Muslim countries, and also for that land where precious Chinese workers manufacture ornamental crosses but have not met the One who died on that cross for their salvation.

This morning we prayed for those, also in our own country, who work to provide for us.

Globalization brings peoples and places from around the world to the private spaces of our homes in the first sixty minutes of our day. National churches, secret believers, and cross-cultural witnesses are in those places, as well as multiplied millions still waiting to hear and understand the gospel. Let us remember them in our waking minutes as the Lord prepares for us our *morning missional moments*.

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