

50-500-5000 Vision and Strategy

Vision

Genesis 12:1-3 The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Revelation 7:9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.
All verses taken from the New International Version (NIV)

In 2012, Bob Blincoe invited Bill MacLeod from Mission ConneXion Northwest (MCNW) down to share with about 50 leaders in the Frontiers office about what they had been seeing the Lord do to mobilize the Church in the Pacific Northwest since 2001.

Then in 2018, a number of key leaders in Phoenix began praying, asking God to use our city to be a blessing to the nations. We started asking God if He would want to make Phoenix a "sending city". We really wanted Phoenix to be used in sending out more long-term workers to the nations to effectively bless the unreached peoples of the world.

Prior to 2018, a number of key leaders and churches had been serving together in various neutral spaces, whether it was collaborating to put on the Luis Palau event in 2011 or working together to serve the marginalized and downtrodden of our city. We had developed a Kingdom minded partnership mentality in Phoenix. Billy Thrall would kindly say we had proven to be a "serving city" which meant that we had been able to work effectively together in various capacities. After several years of serving together we began asking God, what if we could partner together to "send" to the nations...to effectively be a "sending city".

After praying together for a few months, we felt like our vision of being a "sending city" was too small, so we began to ask God would he want us to change our vision to be a "sending state", this would allow our friends in various cities such as Flagstaff and Tucson and cities in between to join in what we believe is a move of God in our state. After praying more, we felt like we needed to expand our vision to being a "sending state". Over time, we believe God has blessed this vision and strategy as we have seen many churches and organizations express a desire to join together in this God-sized task. We are incredibly encouraged to see more and more like-minded leaders joining in this vision.

In October 2020 after a prayer time during one of our Steering Committee meetings, we believe God gave us some numbers to really start working towards- **50, 500, 5,000**.

We are asking the Lord for...

- **50 churches** to join this vision, to see...
- **500 well-trained, well developed disciple makers sent to the nations** to live amongst various unreached peoples to see disciples made and churches planted and to see
- **5,000 people praying for these efforts.** We believe Arizona leaders working together for the shalom (peace) of our cities will lead to the barak (blessing) of the nations. We will do this through prayer, Kingdom collaboration, fasting, deep humility and dependence on the Lord.

One of the main vehicles we believe that can help this happen is Mission ConneXion. Mission ConneXion has a proven track record of working together with local churches in the Pacific Northwest for 20 years, helping to see workers sent to the nations.

We are excited to announce the launch of our first regional, Mission ConneXion Southwest (MCSW) event on November 5th and 6th at Scottsdale Bible Church.

Currently a number of leaders are meeting together at least once a month for an hour of prayer and as we meet, we are crying out to God to raise up more laborers from the churches in the Southwest. (Matthew 9:37 and Luke 10:2) We meet the fourth Wednesday of the month from 10-11 am.

In other words, we want to see the churches of Arizona and the Southwest send more well-trained, well developed laborers take the Gospel to the nations of the earth. Our desire is to see the whole church take the whole Gospel to the whole world. We believe one of the greatest tragedies facing the world is that approximately 3 billion people have never had a chance to hear the Gospel in a way they can respond.

Strategy

Mission ConneXion's Vision - God's People Effectively Mobilized in God's Mission!

The delegation in Arizona that has been collaborating together, believes that Mission ConneXion will be a great catalyst to help see Arizona and the Southwest to send more laborers to the nations.

Across the Southwest, we desire to have churches work together in a spirit of John 17 unity, to participate in Mission ConneXion Southwest. Any evangelical church that has a desire to see their people effectively mobilized into God's mission is welcome! We want to collaborate to see more people mobilized into serving in God's Kingdom.

We desire to see various large churches host MCSW over time. We envision several different churches eventually hosting MCSW, from churches in the East Valley to the

West Valley and in between. We want this to be a shared vision among churches who have a desire to effectively mobilize their people into God's mission.

The goal for each of the churches that participate in MCSW is to invite their congregation to it. As MCSW takes place each year, we desire to partner with the various church leaders and the various participants who attend MCSW. Our hope is that each of the participants will be encouraged, inspired and challenged to get involved into God's mission. We envision that each participant in MCSW will determine what their next step of action is in conjunction with their missions pastor or other church leader is to continue forward in the Great Commission.

Prayer is vital! We know we cannot do anything on our own accord- John 15:5. Any fruit we have will be from a deep dependence on God's Spirit leading us. We invite churches to take part in the Monthly Prayer Gatherings that take place the fourth Wednesday of the month from 10-11 am.

At MCSW, we will bring in world-class communicators that will teach, preach and share stories of God's heart for the nations. These speakers will be challenging, inspiring and encouraging.

In between the plenary sessions, there will be great workshops to attend. The Steering Committee in conjunction with the Board of Mission ConneXion will work together to determine the workshops. We will choose workshop speakers and organizations that have already been participating in MCNW and also workshop speakers who already have a presence in the Southwest, for example, Frontiers and Food for the Hungry. Workshops will include various topics from Short-term trips, to working with International Students, to Sex trafficking, to Church Planting Movements, to working with Refugees.

Some of the next step opportunities will include but certainly not limited to: 1. Pathways for people who want to continue learning more about God's heart for the nations. Pathwaysglobal.org has more details. 2. Multiply groups are a great next step for people who want to learn how to make disciples and want practical teaching and a community to learn from as they seek to make disciples. 3. Launch Communities are a solid next step for people who are wanting to move overseas to the unreached and unengaged areas of the world and need solid training as they gear up to move.

Each of these opportunities has a demonstrated record of accomplishment in helping people determine their role in the Great Commission, however each church will want to have those conversations with the participants as well.