



GLOBAL GOSPEL

Opportunities

IN THE TWIN CITIES

NATIONS GATHER IN CHURCHES PLANTED BY
NAMB MISSIONARY, AND THE GOSPEL SPREADS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

In the heart of Minneapolis-Saint Paul, people from a variety of nations and backgrounds are turning to faith in Jesus and sharing the gospel with neighbors and relatives around the world. In the midst of this is a faithful church planter—Philip Nache—and his family.

A GOSPEL CALL

Philip was born and raised in Northern Nigeria, where he met Jesus around the age of seven. He shares how relieved his parents were at the time, because he had started getting into trouble on the streets. But when a Sunday School teacher shared about the Apostle Paul and the life he lived before his conversion, Philip knew this message was for him. After raising his hand, his life was changed. “The joy, peace, and excitement that I experienced cannot be expressed with words,” he said.

After he rededicated his life to Christ at the age of 18, Phillip felt God leading him toward the mission field. He was discipled with the help of a neighbor who was involved in the Great Commission Movement in Nigeria and became passionate about sharing the gospel with those around him. “Matthew 28:18–20 and Acts 1:8 assure me of not only God’s presence but also that I am empowered by divine authority to speak out or be a mouthpiece of the divine message of God to the lost souls,” he said.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. —Acts 1:8

Much like the Apostle Paul, Philip boldly shares the gospel and the love of Jesus with everyone he meets, even in the face of persecution. He and his wife, Jummai, spent 20 years in Nigeria sharing the gospel and training churches how to share their faith with Muslims. Over the years, they planted two churches and developed curriculum along with a DVD that explained the gospel to followers of Islam. When the DVD found its way into the hands of a terrorist group in Northern Nigeria, the Nache family began to receive threats. Miraculously, God opened the door for them to move to Kentucky.

FROM THE TWIN CITIES TO THE NATIONS

After moving to the US, Philip pursued a Master of Arts in Missiology degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. After graduating, he felt called to Minnesota to be a church planter with the North American Mission Board. Faithful to the call, Philip, Jummai, and their four children have planted two churches in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. At Hope of Nations Gospel Church, most of the members are from South Sudan, with some from South Africa. At Hope of Nations Fellowship

Church, the members are from Northern Nigeria. Every Sunday Philip preaches and teaches the men and the youth of both churches, while Jummai teaches the women and children. All four of their children help set up for church services, and one even plays drums during worship. Jummai and Philip also lead Muslim outreach and a global prayer ministry (Stream of Nations), training churches on how to reach and disciple Muslims and people of other faiths.

“The uniqueness of the location where we are doing church planting is the diversity that it represents,” Philip said. “Almost all the world is found in these cities. We have the privilege of reaching out to the entire world through prayers, evangelism, and discipleship.”

The nations his congregants represent have seen their share of trials and suffering. Philip described how their South Sudanese members are burdened for loved ones who live in refugee camps. He said, “It is not easy for them. Most of them work more jobs so they can help their people back home.” His congregants from Northern Nigeria know the suffering of losing their hometowns and loved ones to acts of the terrorist group Boko Haram.

Philip ministers to the needs of both churches by preaching, teaching, offering encouragement, and organizing Bible studies. Church members also allocate time in each church service and every week to pray fervently for their loved ones and the nations. They donate money and collect offerings for family members, and church members have traveled back to the refugee camps with these donations. In doing this, they serve as the tangible hands and feet of Jesus.

Philip sees the nations gathering to worship in this way as an opportunity to grow disciples. He hopes members will share the gospel with family, neighbors, and others they meet in the US and in their home countries. Through their ministry, the Naches also seek to reach hard-to-reach places with the gospel. One of these places is the country of Somalia. Jummai and the couple’s two daughters have developed friendships and share the gospel with Somalis in Minneapolis-St. Paul. Philip has developed relationships with Somalis he has met in the mall, Halal stores, Walmart, and even the gym. Anywhere he finds people willing to engage in spiritual conversations, Philip prays for hearts to open to Jesus.

Often missions work is seen as a missionary going to a foreign land to share the gospel, but there is nothing more powerful than someone being able to share the gospel in their native language to their native culture. The nations gathered in these churches are able to share with their loved ones, and disciples are being made. Somalis are turning to Jesus, as are Nigerians and Sudanese. The gospel is leaving the walls of the church and traveling throughout the city to the rest of the world.

LIVING ON MISSION

Part of Philip's call is to encourage and challenge believers to a missional lifestyle. He challenges his congregants to pray: "Holy Spirit, please give me a heart of compassion for the lost souls and empower the Saints and me to share the gospel in words and deeds that will draw them to salvation today in Jesus' name!" Every morning he asks God for the chance to share the gospel with someone, and God answers.

Philip shared a story of how he and his wife shared the gospel with a woman of the Islamic faith for about six months. God worked in her life, and she made the decision to follow Christ. "She is also reaching out to her friends and family with the gospel," Philip said. "We give God the glory."

Philip said whenever the gospel is shared, "there is unmeasurable peace of mind." He also believes each time someone is obedient to God's command to share the gospel, God blesses him or her with more insight and boldness as a result. He shared the example of the change that has occurred in his wife. "My wife being an introvert to becoming a bold evangelist in her place of work is extraordinary," Philip said, noting that almost every week she shares her faith with at least one person, if not two. "To God be the glory for using us as an instrument in reconciling the lost souls to His kingdom."

TRUSTING GOD IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCE

Church planting and working as a missionary certainly has its challenges, but the Nache family has grown to rely on God in any situation. While raising four children—with two in college now—there have been times when they have struggled to pay for school fees or make ends meet. But God has always provided.

The Nache family regularly gathers to spend time in devotion, prayer, and worship, and Philip and Jummai often share the family's needs with the children so they can pray together. "There is always a flow of joy and praise to God when God provides new partners to keep us going in the ministry," Philip said. "The Lord has helped us to overcome those challenges through the grace of God. God supplies our needs in ways we cannot think or imagine for His glory."

Through trials, persecution, and suffering, Philip has found comfort in "knowing we have been crucified with Christ. He lives in us. God has great and wonderful plans for us, [and when we seek] first God's kingdom and righteousness, He will always provide our physical and spiritual needs."

He, like many at his two churches, has stared in the face of imminent threat, something many Westerners could not fathom. But he said he finds encouragement in "knowing that our fight is not against flesh and blood but against all the powers of darkness that the Lord has already defeated and [has given] us power through Him to be victorious."

This hope, this emboldened heart for the gospel to everyone Philip meets, is contagious as it permeates the walls of the church to reach pockets of communities in countries throughout the world. Philip offers an example of what it looks like to pray daily to have eyes to see those around him who are in need of the gospel. His obedience to the Holy Spirit to begin spiritual conversations is humbling and challenging. The words of Psalm 2:8, "Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance," have come to life in the heart of Minneapolis-Saint Paul.

ABI KHAVARI has lived and spent time in the Middle East and West Africa and has written articles about missions and following Christ for the last decade. Most days she can be found caring for her three children and a rambunctious puppy.



Minnesota: Global Gospel Opportunities in the Twin Cities



FOR GROUP OR CHURCHWIDE STUDY:

1. Display a world map on the wall. Mark the locations where Philip Nache and his family have lived. (Northern Nigeria, Louisville, Kentucky; Minneapolis, Minnesota)
2. Say, *As we see in the life of Phillip Nache, God sometimes moves us all around the world for His purposes.*
3. Ask a volunteer to give a brief testimony about how God led him or her to undreamt of places to be used for the spread of the gospel.
4. Lead your group in discussion about the primary religion mentioned in the article— Islam. To aid in discussion, download and print the chart found at: <https://www.namb.net/apologetics/resource/comparison-chart-islam-and-christianity/>.
5. Ask, *Does anyone know someone who is a follower of Islam?* How can we form relationships with those of other faiths?
6. Challenge group members to follow the Naches' example by kindly and generously building relationships and sharing Christ with those who don't follow Him.



FOR FAMILY STUDY:

1. Give a short summary of the article.
2. Highlight the section, "A Gospel Call," and discuss the reason the Naches experienced persecution. Ask, *Does God allow persecution? What good can happen as a result?*
3. Talk about the strong sense of family love the Naches' church displays. Note how members donate money to help each others' families in need.
4. Talk about your own family or church family. Ask, *Who might we know that could be struggling with unmet needs?*
5. Consider whose needs you could meet and make it a family project. If more than one person or family's needs are shared, consider partnering with another family to minister to them.
6. Take time to pray for the Nache family and the family you have chosen to help.



FOR INDIVIDUAL STUDY:

1. As you read the article, take note of the different ways God uses both Philip Nache and his wife, Jummai.
2. Read Titus 2:3-5. List the women who have taught you about Christ and biblical womanhood. If possible, send a note of appreciation to them for their influence.
3. Learn about the Islamic faith using the chart found at: <https://www.namb.net/apologetics/resource/comparison-chart-islam-and-christianity/>
4. Do you have any co-workers, neighbors, or relatives who follow Islam?
5. Take time to pray for people who do not follow Christ. Ask the Lord to help you show His love to those who don't know him. Pray for their spiritual eyes to be opened to the love of Christ.