

## A CITY ON THE VERGE OF DESTRUCTION

*Other than Israel, Iraq is the most mentioned place in the Bible.*

Recently, Mike Jackson, President of Reach the Rest, traveled with a group of six others to this ancient and historical region of the world. The team viewed destroyed and desecrated homes and churches on the frontline of the ISIS conflict in the city of Mosul. *Mosul sits in the exact location as the ancient city of Nineveh mentioned in the Old Testament.*

While traveling within the eastern

side of the city, the team distributed over 500 Bibles and gospel tracts to students. The materials were warmly received. Many of the students even stopped to talk to the group. Even as the fight for the liberation of Mosul continues, there is a sense that these students and other residents are desperately trying to continue on with life. Many are confused and are searching for answers.

Unfortunately, there are still those who remain sympathetic to the cause of ISIS. One

of the students proclaimed to a RTR team member, "I am ISIS!"

The team member responded with boldness and said, "I am not afraid" and embraced

*continued*

## Prayer Points

- Pray for the enemies of the One True God and His Church. Pray that their hearts would be softened and that they would come to faith in Jesus Christ.
- Pray for protection for our partners, field workers and believers against spiritual attacks.
- Pray for displaced and persecuted Christians who attempt to return to their communities and rebuild their homes and churches.
- Pray for leadership training and the discipleship of new believers and the formation and growth of new house churches.
- Pray that our brothers and sisters will speak of God's gift of salvation in a way that is clear and understandable to those hostile to the gospel.



the young man. The Spirit of power, love and a sound mind was evident in a powerful way.

The team was able to visit with believers in the area who desire to organize their own house churches. They know they cannot have more than 10 or 15 people in a house together because other neighbors will watch and report any such activity. Persecution is an ongoing concern for those that step into faith.

The believers were encouraged to seek God's wisdom from Acts 2 where Christians faced similar conditions. Those first century believers met from house to house, studied God's Word, broke bread together, prayed, and shared all things — a perfectly outlined strategy for

churches functioning within hostile environments. RTR field leadership will train new leaders on how to start house churches, appoint additional leaders and expand the Kingdom of God like those in the early church.

Historically, the church has grown and spread through persecution. Tertullian is quoted



as saying, *"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."* Jesus said to pray for our enemies and bless those who persecute us. It is clear that the only permanent solution to this crisis is Jesus.

We are praying for an unprecedented movement of God within this region. Like the ancient prophets, Nahum and Jonah, who preached in Nineveh, we too deliver God's message.

*"But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."*

~1 Corinthians 1:23-25

## ***Join Reach the Rest in their vision to plant 50,000 churches among the unengaged and unreached in the next 5 years!***

**Reach the Rest** is training and equipping church leaders and national believers to make disciples and plant local churches among their unengaged neighbors. These are called "proximate" people groups.

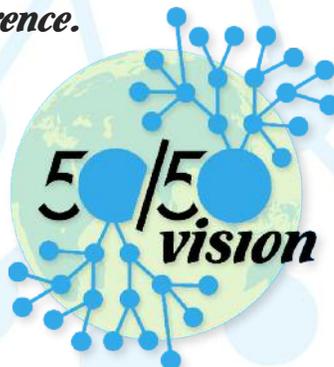
The **50/50 Vision** is an initiative to **plant 50 thousand churches, for \$50 each, over a 5-year span**. Imagine the impact you can make for so little — hundreds of thousands reached with the gospel, gathered into local communities, and discipled. All for a minimal cost.

### ***Make a Commitment. Make a Difference.***

Invest in what God is doing through Reach the Rest. You can make a significant difference. All it takes is a small monthly investment.

- Plant 6 churches this year .....\$25 per month
- Plant 12 churches this year.....\$50 per month
- Plant 24 churches this year .....\$100 per month

Call **(877) 811-3742** or visit **[www.reachtherest.org](http://www.reachtherest.org)** to make your commitment.



**REACH the REST**

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