

# What is Finishing the Task?

By Rick Warren

A  finishing the task White Paper

Finishing the Task is a coalition of thousands of believers, churches, denominations, and organizations coming together to fulfill the Great Commission. It's a call to mobilize all of Christ's Church, to do all Christ commands, with all people, in all places, using all of God's gifts, all for God's glory by 2033, the 2000th anniversary of the instructions given to us by Jesus:

## The Great Commission

*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."  
(Matthew 28:18-20)*

Finishing the Task is not an organization, congregation, or denomination. It is a network of networks and a shared commitment to a set of goals designed to help us fulfill the Great Commission in our generation. Over the next 10 years, millions of believers, churches, organizations, and denominations will work together to see four specific "B" goals accomplished:

## Bibles

*We want every person on Earth to have access to the Gospel translated into their heart language. We will also empower believers around the globe to engage with Scripture in new and expanded ways.*

## Believers

*We want to equip every believer— all 2.6 billion of them—to share their faith personally. If every believer in Jesus Christ just shared the Good News with two people who had never heard it, the whole world would hear the Gospel personally.*

## **Bodies of Christ**

*We want every existing church to sponsor and plant a daughter church where there is no church.*

## **Breakthrough Prayer**

*We want to have every person on planet Earth who doesn't know Jesus yet prayed for by someone who does know Jesus. This means billions of believers will need to be praying for billions of non-believers.*

### **What is Finishing the Task?**

***Number one: It's a shared commitment to fulfill the Great Commission in our generation, by AD 2033.***

Let's just suppose we were able to get the Gospel to everybody by AD 2033. You know what? If Jesus hasn't come back, babies will be born that year, and the next generation will have to do it again. Every generation is responsible for the Great Commission in its generation.

The Bible tells us David served God's purpose in his generation. He did that which never changes, but he did it in a constantly changing world. He did that which was timeless—God's purpose—in a timely way. He did that which was eternal in a relevant and culturally appropriate way. He served God's purpose in his generation, and then, the Bible says, he died.

That's what we're doing with FTT. We're serving God's purpose in our generation.

***Number two: It's a church-centered strategy.*** Efforts by agencies, by organizations, by mission boards, by parachurch organizations are good, but there aren't enough professionals to get the job done. The current efforts to fulfill the Great Commandment are like a football game. Twenty-two professionals on the field are desperately in need of rest, and 100,000 people are in the stands watching and desperately in need of exercise. We've got to mobilize all of Christ's Church to do all that Christ commanded, with all people, in all places, using all of God's gifts, all for God's glory. We're going to use the New Testament model because we believe that the Church at its birth was the Church at its best.

***Number three: It's a set of goals.*** We want every person on Earth to have access to a Bible in their heart language. We want every believer equipped to share the good news. We want every church reproducing to form other bodies of Christ. And then in breakthrough prayer, we want to make sure that every unbeliever on Earth gets prayed for by a believer.

## What is Finishing the Task NOT?

***Finishing the Task is not an organization, congregation, denomination, or anything else you have to join.*** It is a network of networks—a collaboration of congregations and organizations and denominations. We want FTT to be at the forefront of every Christ-follower's mind and heart—every body of Christ, every denomination, every organization, and every Christian community. Then they take the concept, and they run with it on their own.

***Finishing the Task is not a hierarchical structure,*** where a few people at the top make all the decisions and then all the people at the bottom do all the work. We want to flip that pyramid on its head. Instead of having a hierarchical structure, we want what's called a polycentric movement with many centers. Rather than a hierarchy of people telling other people what to do, it's everybody sharing their ideas. A hierarchy is uniformity, based on control. A movement is unity based on love, and everybody has equal access, equal voice, and equal creativity. Hierarchy is what corporations do. Polycentric is what they did in the Book of Acts.

In other words, what they were doing in Antioch was different than what they were doing in Joppa. What they were doing in Joppa was different than what they were (doing) in Jerusalem or in Corinth or in Philippi or Thessalonica or in Rome. It was polycentric. There was no central headquarters. The Church just exploded with growth. It was a movement, not an organization.

One of the ways I compare it is, here in America in the 1950s and 1960s, we had a thing called the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was the leader of that movement, but no one ever elected him. In fact, Martin Luther King did not run a civil rights organization at all. He was a pastor and the head of one organization called the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference was only one of hundreds of organizations in the Civil Rights Movement. There was the NAACP, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and many, many other organizations. The Civil Rights Movement was not one organization; it was hundreds of organizations cooperating together. That's what FTT wants to be.

Finishing the Task will have thousands of centers around the world in churches, in denominations, in ministries, and in agencies. There will be groups, we're going to call them commissions, that come together focused on a city. There will be commissions that come together focused on a nation. There will be commissions that come together focused on a region. There will be commissions that come together focused on, for instance, reaching military people, reaching business leaders, reaching farmers, reaching children, reaching people with different kinds of illnesses, reaching different kinds of races and languages, reaching different kinds of needs and hurts and interests. Literally, the sky is the limit with hundreds and thousands of different commissions.

What matters is that the global Church begins to adopt a shared commitment to achieving the Great Commission in our generation. These goals may seem insurmountable, but that's why we need the power of the Holy Spirit and the combined efforts of the entire Church. One drop of water by itself can't do much, but a million drops of water can turn a desert into a garden. One person alone may not accomplish very much, but if enough of us work together toward the Great Commission, we can change history.

## ARE YOU IN?

*Join a coalition of thousands of believers, churches, denominations, and organizations coming together to fulfill the Great Commission. Finishing the Task is a call to mobilize all of Christ's Church, to do all Christ commands, with all people, in all places, using all of God's gifts, all for God's glory by 2033, the 2000th anniversary of the instructions given to us by Jesus.*

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***Learn more and get started at [FinishingtheTask.com](https://FinishingtheTask.com).***