



Global Connection International

# ***EXECUTIVE BRIEFING***

**February 2024**

## **From the Desk of Our President:**

Normal life has always had challenges, distractions, and pressures, but, all of us would have to agree that we have been blindsided repeatedly by what has taken place over the past four or five years! So much of the lifestyle that we have enjoyed, and even come to expect here in the United States for over two and a half centuries, now seems to be hanging in the balance. Our way of life providing a prominent level of dependability, integrity, personal privacy, peaceful co-existence with neighbors in our local communities - ensured by respect for law and order; is now under serious attack on many fronts by those using fraud, coercion, and force to exploit fellow human beings for their own personal power and financial gain.

As our world is destabilized and marginalized more and more by the forces of evil, our daily newscasts are full of stories that defy common sense, let alone any trace of moral or ethical restraint. Unfortunately, we have reached the point where all this unconscionable conduct is not just perpetrated by Thugs on the streets, but by those at every level of our government, society and culture. As a result, options for justice, protection, and security under our constitution are visibly eroding before our very eyes here in our own country, and leading to alarming increases in discouragement, depression and suicide.



- **Global Connection International was organized 24 years ago** next month for the expressed purpose of “**Taking Light to Dark and Difficult Places**” **around the globe**. With an incredible amount of time, talent and treasure provided by our GCI Ministry Partners over nearly a quarter of a century; the Lord has allowed us to join Him in numerous, astonishing, cross-cultural, humanitarian endeavors, encouraging and training local church leadership, and sharing the Gospel message with foreign heads of state and their military.
- **The fight against Human Trafficking** inadvertently became a major part of our overseas ministry right from the beginning; and about 6 years ago GCI undertook a cutting-edge **Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Campaign here at home**, as the US rose to the top of the world-wide list for the purchase of commercial sex. With a fantastic team of volunteers and the provision of a beautiful, 65’ mobile educational exhibit, we were able to expose over 1,025,000 young people and their families to the dangers that Traffickers pose to every-day Americans via social media.

- **A World Full of Marginalized People Requires That We Focus on Things That Matter Most. What Truly Does Matter Most?** Our Global Connection International leadership team is clearly making it a priority to share the “Good News” about God’s redeeming grace available for every human being, everywhere. Why? **Because in the end, nothing matters more than a personal relationship with Jesus Christ!** That relationship is what offers us everything we need for life and living in this broken world we live in today, and the promise of eternal life with Him after we graduate from life on this earth. **Yes! It’s all wrapped up in John 3:16 – pure and simple.**



- **We love “Connecting People Who Care with the World’s Greatest Needs,” so, here are four specific areas you will find GCI actively involved in during 2024:**
- 1. We continue to provide logistical and financial support to our 23-year-old, cross-cultural, legacy projects overseas including the “One Church, One School Initiative” in Cambodia, “Hope for Kome Island Project” in Tanzania, and “Beyond The Word Ministry” in Ghana.**
  - 2. We continue to be available for Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention presentations in churches and local school assemblies.**
  - 3. We are honored to help provide counsel, encouragement, and pulpit supply to local churches facing significant decisions and challenges during these difficult days.**

4. Last, but certainly not least, a chance to share the Gospel message of Christ's love is clearly unfolding by way of our growing relationship with **ARISE Collective Theatre** based out of Grand Rapids, Michigan. This group of several, cross-generational families is currently on a national tour with a Broadway quality, 2½ hour musical entitled **PILGRIM**, based on the literary classic, Pilgrim's Progress. Seldom have we encountered a group of resolute, creative, and talented young adults with the Spiritual maturity and depth demonstrated by this compelling organization!

Under the direction of Rich & Mindi Garnaat, **ARISE Collective Theatre** is passionately "On Mission to Redeem the Arts!" After every powerful, performance, a couple of the cast members share a brief, well-articulated, personal testimony of their walk with Jesus Christ; and invite members of the audience to stay after and visit if they would like to talk or have someone pray with them. Their stated goal is to share the message of the Gospel through the arts unto "salvation for the unbeliever and transformation for the believer" and regular audience response after every single performance is amazing.

As Global Connection International blends a cutting edge, 23-year history of outreach and ministry with this first-class, impactful, visual presentation of the Gospel produced by the **ARISE Collective Theatre** team; we look forward with great anticipation to what the Lord will continue to do through this powerful platform!



**As we transition into this purposeful and exciting new season of ministry, here are some important ways that you can partner with us right now:**

1. First and foremost, please pray for extra strength and safety in all the logistical details of taking this presentation on the road; and for a great Spiritual harvest to continue!
2. We would love to have you join us in bringing this powerful, outreach opportunity to your area, or by spending some time serving as hosts, greeters or support staff at one or more venues along the way. We guarantee that you will be blessed and encouraged beyond measure by spending some time with this incredible group of Young Adults.
3. Finally, we invite you to consider becoming a regular financial partner in getting this life-changing message out to those whose eternal destiny depends on it! Revelation 22:12 promises us great rewards for our participation in Kingdom work here in this life!

For Things That Matter Most,



Jim Weber  
President

## **FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP**

**We currently need an additional \$5,000/month in order to keep up with current ministry opportunities and very low overhead. If you would prayerfully consider becoming a financial partner with us, please contact us at [jw@gciworld.org](mailto:jw@gciworld.org)**

Checks may be made out to:  
**Global Connection International**  
PO Box 194, Holdrege, NE 68949