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| **Problems vs. Opportunities**Dear Members of Trinity,We have often heard that a pessimist will look at a situation and see a problem, while an optimist will look at the same situation and see an opportunity. Whether you fall into one camp of the other, I would hope that you would view the situation from God’s perspective and see reality as it really is.Jesus taught us to pray by saying, “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Mt. 6:10).God’s creation is suffering under the affects of sin and death but Jesus, the savior of the world, said we must look to heaven for the answer. Jesus did not sugar-coat any situation and he certainly did not say sin is not sin. But even he had to look to heaven to see what God’s will was (Jn. 5:19). So what is the state of the world and what should be the Church’s response because God desires his kingdom to break into the kingdoms of this world?Sex trafficking: In America alone it generates $9.5 billion annually. Worldwide there are over 20 million victims of which 2 million are children. India, because of its caste system and Hinduism, is ground zero for trafficking. Checkout the video from the January 16 post entitled “Light in the Darkness” at [http://www.challies.com](http://cru.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=fadf27ae8850f2f8a17aee624&id=cceb885f96&e=5f049af58a)/ to see the spiritual realities of India. What is to be the Church’s response to the unsaved, an oppressive caste system, human rights abuses and sexual addiction? What is God’s will for redeeming the victims, oppressors, and countries?Mega-cities: Tokyo, Delhi, Mexico City, New York and Shanghai each have over 20 million in population. As of now there are 24 mega-cities will populations of over 10 million. Almost half the world’s population are now urban vs rural. Migrant workers seeking work flood cities and often end up in shanty towns. One in seven humans lives in a slum today. In undeveloped countries these slums can become centers of disease, human trafficking, pollution, substance abuse and malnutrition. What is to be the Church’s response to the unsaved and impoverished? What is God’s will for redeeming the poor and bringing hope to the hopeless? Check out Timothy Keller at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZfHx2NiV50](http://cru.us5.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=fadf27ae8850f2f8a17aee624&id=e954719d31&e=5f049af58a) for more information.College campuses: The leaders of tomorrow are on the college campus today. The top schools attract the top students but these schools are often in the most expensive cities in the world which makes it difficult for missionaries (New York, Boston, Paris, London, Tokyo, Beijing, etc...). Of the 150 million students many are on campuses dominated by anti-Christian teaching be it secular, Hindu or Islamic. What is to be the Church’s response to the 6,000 campuses of the world? What is God’s will for redeeming tomorrow’s leaders today? Check out John Piper at [http://vimeo.com/82571012](http://cru.us5.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=fadf27ae8850f2f8a17aee624&id=b8bdfe25df&e=5f049af58a) for more information on student missions.Unreached peoples: There are over 7,000 unreached people groups that do not have a church, Bible or missionary reaching them. They constitute 40% of the world’s population and live primarily in the 10/40 Window. The Church in America gives only a fraction of a percent of all monies to reach the unreached. Tens of thousands of people die every day having never heard the gospel. What is to be the Church’s response to the unreached 3 billion people? What is God’s will for redeeming “all nations,” including those that have never heard? Check out [http://www.joshuaproject.net](http://cru.us5.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=fadf27ae8850f2f8a17aee624&id=ac6209b035&e=5f049af58a)/ for more information on unreached peoples.Christianity in America: You could probably write this paragraph because we each see and read the stark reality. Falling numbers overall, increased materialism vs. mission, loosing our current generation of young people, being entertaining but not faith-filled, and more. What is the be the Church’s response to an increasingly hostile culture and nominal Christianity? What is God’s will for reviving the Church in America?Whether you see problems or opportunities, how would you answer each of these questions?What problems/opportunities and questions do you have? Please email me at: steven.ose@cru.org with your thoughts.Please pray with us, “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”Thank you for your partnership in the gospel. We cannot do what we do without you!Jesus saves,Steven and Robin |

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| steven.ose@cru.org • 612-419-8050 16225 Tonkaway Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55345 We are responsible for raising 100% of our financial support. To partner with us, please visit [https://give.cru.org/0509499](http://cru.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=fadf27ae8850f2f8a17aee624&id=79207a9072&e=5f049af58a) |

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| *Copyright © 2014 CRU, All rights reserved.*You are this list to receive updates and prayer requests from the ministry of Steven and Robin Ose.**Our mailing address is:**CRU 16225 Tonkaway RdMinnetonka, MN 55345 |

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