



INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

Humanitarian, Educational, and Leadership Initiatives.

Our Heartbeat

For years, people asked me about our mission, and I attempted to describe it in some clichéd 30-second elevator pitch. The triteness didn't resonate with them or me. ISA's mission in Haiti is intentionally deep and varied, but sometimes what is embedded in the deeper layers or on the fringes of the wider spaces can get lost in translation.

So simply stated, **the heartbeat of International Strategic Alliances is "The Great Commission."** We were founded and exist to embrace this indispensable imperative, and it is our primary priority.

The Great Commission

Before departing this world and ascending to heaven, Jesus gathered His disciples and spoke these final words: *"Then 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). Through the centuries, these words have become known as "The Great Commission." Historically, Christians have acknowledged them as the Church's marching orders for mission and mobilization.

Robert E. Coleman, in his Christian classic *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, states, *"The question must always be asked: Is it worth doing? And does it get the job done? . . . Are our efforts to keep things going fulfilling the Great Commission of Christ? Do we see an ever-expanding company of dedicated men [and women] reaching the world with the Gospel as a result of our ministry? . . . Are we accomplishing our objective?"*¹

The focal point of the command is to “**make disciples.**” Disciples are men and women who attach themselves to Jesus as their Master, and this personal attachment totally shaped their whole life, leaving no doubt as to who was calling them. Jesus told His disciples, “*If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples*” (John 8:31). The objective of a disciple is to be “*like Jesus.*” Jesus’ description of a disciple’s ultimate aim was, “*A disciple [student] is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully taught [trained] will be like his teacher*” (Luke 6:40 RSV). Coleman adds, “*Jesus intended for the disciples to produce His likeness in and through the Church being gathered out of the world. Thus, his ministry in the Spirit would be duplicated many fold by His ministry in the lives of His disciples.*”

ISA’s Vision and Mission

ISA’s Vision Statement reflects our intention to follow The Great Commission. “*We exist to make a significant and enduring difference in the lives of the Haitian people by helping them to rise above their present circumstances, reach the highest potential of their intended design, and become catalysts for change in their spheres of influence.*”

In obedience to His command and following His example, we will call those whom God draws to us to a committed lifestyle of passionate devotion to Jesus, and we will endeavor to entrust our mission to faithful leaders who can lead others into Christian discipleship.

Please pray for us as we seek to discern the particulars of this calling upon our lives and mission, so that we can faithfully live it out in all our endeavors.

