

Loren Cunningham

Loren Cunningham is the Founder of Youth With A Mission (YWAM), an ever-expanding global missions movement born in 1960 which has reached into every nation on earth (www.ywam.org). YWAM encompasses evangelism, training and mercy ministries. It is manned by tens of thousands of full-time staff from 200+ countries and a wide variety of denominations and Christian traditions who serve at more than 2,000 YWAM locations in 191 nations. By the time of YWAM's 50th anniversary in 2010, more than five million participants had served in YWAM programs as students, short-term volunteers and full-time staff. From that point, YWAM went "viral" and they decided to stop trying to keep a count. Now only God knows the numbers.

Loren is also the Co-Founder and International Chancellor of the University of the Nations (UofN), a global ministry of YWAM (www.uofn.edu). Since the university was established in 1978, it has grown to offer more than 600 different kinds of courses and seminars (some of which are offered in nearly 100 languages), held at more than 800 locations/campuses in 163 countries. The ten colleges of the UofN are: Applied Linguistics & Languages; Arts; Christian Ministries; Communication; Counseling; Education; Health Care; Humanities & International Studies; Science & Technology and Sports & Fitness. Hundreds of thousands of students have registered within the global UofN system and taken at least a Discipleship Training School (DTS), the entry course and pre-requisite for all other UofN courses and/or for becoming YWAM staff.

Loren and his wife, Darlene, his ministry partner from the beginning of YWAM, reside in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii investing their wisdom and influence into the leaders and staff of the University of the Nations Kona campus which they pioneered in 1977. (www.ywamkona.org).

By 1999, Loren had personally gone to every sovereign nation on earth, all dependent countries, and more than 100 territories and islands for the sake of Christ and the Great Commission. This has given him valuable insights into global trends and uniquely prepared him to share God's strategies for world evangelism. His wisdom, experience, leadership understanding and call to build bridges of unity within the body of Christ have given him opportunity to speak publicly to live audiences from a few to more than a million people gathered in one location. Pre-COVID, he usually ministered on all six continents each year, and during COVID he says he went further and reached more people via Zoom than during all his previous years of ministry combined.

Since the 1960s, Loren has carried a burden with many other global leaders to make the Bible accessible to every person on earth, thereby ending Bible poverty worldwide. Wherever the Scripture goes, the Spirit of God brings transformation! He has met with hundreds of influential leaders in evangelical, charismatic and Pentecostal denominations, as well as those leading the oldest Christian traditions, to invite their partnership in this cause. More recently, his passion has become fine-tuned to focus on making an ORAL translation of the Bible available in every MOTHER TONGUE on earth, because that is the language of the heart. This must happen to fulfill Jesus' prayer "on earth as it is in heaven" pictured in Revelation 7:9: "...a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb..."

Born in Taft, California, Loren's family heritage is rich with generations of Christian ministers. His educational background includes three Bachelor degrees, a Master of Science in Administration of Education, and three Honorary Doctorates. Loren is the author of six books: *Is That Really You, God?* (translated into more than 140 languages), *Making Jesus Lord*, *Daring to Live on the Edge*, *Why Not Women?*, *The Book that Transforms Nations—the Power of the Bible to Change any Country* and *We Can End Bible Poverty Now*.

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