

**Richard Gobble**  
**MINISTRY SKETCH**

Generally, my ambition for life as well as those I lead is found in Paul's prayer for the Ephesians in Ephesians 3:14-18. Over the years this purpose has found its best expression through:

- **Prayer:** I look for opportunities to spend quantities of time alone with the Lord, seeking to cultivate His friendship that I might know Him and His ways more deeply. While Scripture-based prayer is not the only means of experiencing the reality of Christ, it is core to every believer's intimacy with God. Over the years I have also sought, and often initiated, opportunities for corporate prayer including leading church-wide and community prayer emphases, church leadership and pastoral prayer retreats, and regional/statewide prayer events. I have also had the opportunity to participate in or facilitate international prayer initiatives to Chile, Israel, and earlier this year to South Africa.
- **Preaching/Exhortation:** Reflection and meditation on the Scriptures reveal the Lord and the reality of His Kingdom. This in turn stirs a passion for proclaiming His greatness, power, and mercy in such a way that others capture a vision for the wonder of His greatness. The end goal of such proclamation is that listeners seek Him and, in the words of Oswald Chambers, surrender their utmost for His highest.
- **Compassion/Mercy/Healing:** Through the years I have felt God's compassion toward broken people, particularly leaders. It has been gratifying to see the Lord heal hearts and restore hope and vision for the future through the working of His Word and Spirit.
- **Working with Men:** Since early years in ministry I have been drawn to seek out other men for mutual encouragement, prayer, and growth. The settings have varied from small groups, larger group studies, leading retreats, as well as one-on-one; all settings where we could open our hearts and lives to each other and to the Lord. I have found healing, strength, and hope in my own life through walking alongside other men.
- **Pastoral/Community Networking:** Early in the church-planting venture I became aware that the Lord's heart was broader than any local congregation; that our church needed to reach out, partner, and support other local fellowships. It has been a privilege to help connect pastors and churches so that Christ's work might prosper throughout our community.

In summary, I deeply desire for people to come to know the reality of Jesus Christ in such a way that it produces what Paul speaks of in Romans 12: a supreme desire to offer their lives to Him in response to His loving mercy. If I were to choose a "life verse" it would be Ephesians 3:19-20: "Unto Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine..." To know One like that, and to make Him known, is a pursuit worthy of a lifetime... and beyond.