



Dear Friends,

November 2025

“Another also said, ‘I will follow you, Lord; but first permit me to say goodbye to those at home.’ Jesus replied, ‘No one after putting his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for service in the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:61-62).

I'll mention this and then move on. My Novo ministry account is at a 10-year, all-time low (almost empty). Please consider a year-end gift, or monthly giving, as I put my hand to the 2026 plow, overseeing Novo staff with ministries canvassing 83 countries and growing.

I'm often asked how much longer I'll continue ministering with Novo. Maybe I'm looking old, or maybe it's just what you ask of someone who is 65 and still working full-time. My answer always is the same: I'll continue for as long as God's calling is present and I'm capable.

When I turned 60, I received a divine sense from the Lord that the decade of my 60's would constitute my most significant contribution. One month after turning 62, I received this email from Sam Metcalf, Novo Founder/President, following a Novo international staff zoom call:

“Don’t know how to adequately express my gratitude for your words on the Ethne leaders call today. What you said and how you said it was beyond significant. I don’t know if you saw it, but something shifted spiritually in the room because of what you did. Many, many thanks! I’d like to chat with you about what role you may be open to playing in this new configuration [Novo reorganization]. I’d like to get your thoughts. You’re too young to retire and you have way too much experience to have it be underutilized in the important years ahead. Much love to you, my brother!”

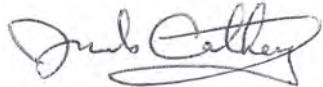
A strategic reorganization of the 551 Novo staff transpired in the months that followed, and Sam asked me to head up the *Empowering Leaders Division*. As the largest Novo division and still expanding, *Empowering Leaders* staff are effectively ministering in 83 countries to develop national ministry leaders, catalyze church growth, and facilitate disciple making movements. Overseeing it all is the part I play in “hand to the plow” ministry.

I can't sufficiently communicate all the stories of *Empowering Leaders* impact around the globe to you, my ministry partners. Your part in prayer and funding each year is a pivotal piece. I'm not retired and neither are you. Whether backing *Empowering Leaders* or some other God initiative, may we be found faithful in accordance with the mandate of Apostle Peter:

“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves, as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen” (I Peter 4:10-11).

May God grant us the grace to fulfill His calling on our lives for as long as we have breath and strength. Thank you for your participation in prayer and finances in God's "hand to the plow" calling as we steward God's giftings on our lives moving forward into 2026. Blessings to you!

With Hand to the Plow,



Mark Cathey

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On the family front, Melinda and I are managing marriage well as we juggle separate ministries and travels. Danielle is directing the Addictions Unit, Denver Health Hospital. Micah and Beka are adjusting to Micah's new work with INTEREP in Denver and beyond. Bre and Ryan are living near us, so Melinda and I continue to enjoy proximity of our grandkids, Kai (3) and Ari (1).



2-year-old photo to be updated over Thanksgiving when we're all together again!

Tax-deductible Donations

Checks: made out to Novo (memo line: account #4691, Cathey) and sent to:
Novo – 1240 N Lakeview Ave. Suite 120 – Anaheim, CA 92807-1847

Online Donations: www.novo.org/give