

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR FRONTIER MISSIOLOGY: NEWS, CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

■ The International Society of Frontier Missiology (ISFM) was founded in 1986 with the purpose of directing both study and action for the reaching of the unreached peoples of the world. At a recent meeting of the society progress was made in this area by strong affirmations and recommendations of action steps to be taken by those attending. The following documents are edited versions of the conference transcripts.

FRONTIER MISSIONS: CROSSING INTO THE '90s

We the members of the International Society for Frontier Missiology convened our 4th annual retreat at the Glen Eyrie Christian Conference Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA, from September 21 to 23, 1989. Together with the Global Statistics Task Force, we gathered to explore our theme: "Implementing Global Plans into the Decade of Evangelization." Over the past ten years, many of us have been inspired with the prophetic call of "A Church for Every People by the Year 2000". In previous annual meetings, we explored the missiological implications which stemmed from the first part of this watchword, "A Church for Every People." Today we rejoice that people group thinking has empowered mission agencies around the world for new outreach across frontiers. This year we considered the second part of this watchword, "by the year 2000." In doing so, we affirmed the following points:

1. The Worldwide Decade of Evangelization.

We received news that since 1986 several of Christianity's biggest denominations and mission agencies have dedicated the years 1990 - 2000 as the Decade of World Evangelization, or a similar title (Assemblies of God, Anglican, Southern Baptist, Campus Crusade, etc). We affirm that the world Christian movement has entered a new epoch which will hold special significance for those of us whose specific calling is to frontier missions.

2. Third World Missions.

We were refreshed to hear first hand reports of mission movements in Latin America, Africa and Asia. We learned that the number of Third World

missionaries has now surpassed 36,000, distributed among 118 countries. They have now emerged on the cutting frontier of mission worldwide. We believe the next decade offers an unprecedented opportunity to develop genuine partnerships in mission through mutual sharing of training and resources.

3. National Strategies.

After hearing reports from Taiwan and Costa Rica, we praised God for the fresh ways in which national leaders are launching nationwide mobilization conferences with an AD 2000 focus. We commend these leaders for their pioneer spirit and encourage them to explore new ways on how to focus their national strategies on the Unevangelized World.

4. Non-residential Missionaries.

We examined the new role of the "Nonresidential Missionary." Based on reports from two of the largest sending agencies in North America, we believe this kind of networking missionary will be a key link in ensuring that Christian resources get funneled towards the Unevangelized World. We commend this strategy to other mission executives for evaluation, especially those who seek to focus on restricted-access areas in the '90s.

5. Statistics.

We recognize the tremendous progress that has been made by Christian researchers in the past 12 months in regard to global statistics. This is especially needed when we are calling the church to complete the task of world evangelization by year 2000. We believe this is timely in a day when the cry is for more compassion, more

credibility, and more cooperation. These coordinated statistics have challenged us to think anew with clarity about the remaining task, whether in terms of peoples, cities or countries. We give ourselves afresh to forward the global conversation as to world evangelization definitions, terminology, and statistics, believing that if God is in this, He will take the Church to new heights of corporate stewardship.

6. Databases.

Renewed with the call to go to the frontiers, and focused by statistics, we realize that God is asking for us to reconsider our personal responsibility to the people of the world, and make our call to the Church more specific. We ask those who steward global databases to publish at an early date a coordinated list of an initial 2,000 unreached peoples. Equally so, we affirm those who are engaged in particular research at the national level or among a specific people group. We look forward to the day when the giving and receiving of mission information becomes commonplace among missions researchers.

7. Matching.

We considered various models for matching up the resources of the Christian world with the needs of the Unevangelized World. We evaluated the potential of an "Adopt-a-People" clearinghouse for North America. More work needs to be done, but this is an area where mission agencies must act collectively and local churches can take initiative.

8. Mobilization.

We have heard reports from the Association of Church Mission Committees about how local churches,

in light of AD 2000, are now aspiring to become M & M churches—mobilized for world missions and mobilizers of others. Some have shared how they expect thousands of Charismatic/Pentecostal churches to be equipped to evangelize the world in the early '90s. We affirm the importance and role of the local church in world mission, but we admit that the current focus and energy of the U.S. Church, or for that matter the Church around the world, is not adequate to complete the task. By God's grace, this must change.

9. Prayer.

We have been refreshed through times of prayer, although too few. We have come to the inescapable conclusion that we must mobilize people first and foremost into Christ—into the spiritual dynamics behind world evangelization. The task of mobilization in the West, especially, must always aim to be prophetic. In light of the much talked about 340 causes of failure in world evangelization, we are all the more determined to make spiritual warfare and intercession the hallmark of our approach to world evangelization in the '90s.

10. Global Action Plan.

As we enter this new decade, we believe God is calling leaders from around the globe to consider how they might serve those new things the Spirit of God is giving his church. Much of our time was spent in discussing the shape of a global agenda for change in world evangelization as we approach the 21st century. Our primary study document for our retreat was the "Kaleidoscopic Global Action Plan, Version 2¹". We commend this study document to leaders worldwide who have a heart desire to help bridge the remaining gaps in world evangelization. This study document deserves serious consideration by any consultation or committee. We give thanks for those agencies who have already appointed "global desks" and coordinators to link their group with this action plan. We call upon Great Commission Christians everywhere to join with us in this global conversation and work together to implement its actions points.

11. Conclusion.

If our Lord tarries, we will soon enter the final decade of this century, and approach the dawn of the Third Millennium of Christianity. We believe

it is possible to bring the gospel to all people by the year 2000. We turn from our sin and failures to express our belief that God is indeed allowing a tide of hope to arise. May God have mercy on us. AMEN.

Notes:

1. "A Kaleidoscopic Global Action Plan: Two Thousand Plans Towards AD 2000, Version 2" by David B. Barrett, et.al., as published in the *International Journal of Frontier Missions*, Vol. 6, No. 1-4, January-October, 1989.
2. This document was written by Jay Gary, coordinator of the Global Service Office, and accepted by the International Society for Frontier Missiology.
3. For more information on the International Society for Frontier Missiology, please contact: Mr. Todd Johnson, Secretary, ISFM, P.O. Box 129, Rockville, VA 23146, USA. Tel: (804) 353-0151, ext. 610; Fax (804) 358-0504

RECOMMENDATIONS

Decade Of Evangelization

- The "Decade of Evangelization" become registered as the "Decade of World Evangelization" to define activities associated with the KGAP & estimated 2,000 plans.
- the immediate need for a contemporary film and video expressing vision of the remaining task and terms of Decade of Evangelization be produced as a tool which could have wide use among Great Commission Christians.

Third World Mission

- that the Western Church should seek God's wisdom on how to share their God given financial resources with their third world counterparts without many strings attached for the purpose of reaching the world by AD 2000.
- that surveys/polls/research be done on third world mission agencies to determine an assesment of needs which they have in order to fulfil their AD 2000 goals.
- the active development of partnerships between missionary groups around the world especially including the growing third world missions groups.
- encourage all denominational mission boards to allocate a significant percentage of their missionary resources (human and financial) to assisting in the

development of the missionary movements among their sister national churches in the two thirds world.

National

- commending the many national leaders who are launching mobilization conferences with an AD 2000 focus.
- encouraging them to continue to seek ways to focus their national strategies on World A, the Unevangelized World.
- That the [Lausanne] Statistics Task Force apply itself to the continental task of producing a country by country survey of the "reached" harvest force.

Nonresidential Missionaries (NRMs)

- NRMs for the frontiers should be strongly advocated
- That every mission sending agency serious about evangelizing the world establish a Nonresidential Missionary track within its auspices responsible to begin a major penetration of the unevangelized restricted access world.
- Every mission agency should evaluate the Nonresidential Missionary approach as a means for insuring that resources get transferred to World A—the Unevangelized World.
- That the NRM concept be tied together with the need for multi-agency cooperative task forces (both western and non-western in composition) coordinating integrated strategies for moving unreached peoples/people groups/cities with unevangelized populations towards Christ.

Definitions /missiology

- Clarity of the task remaining.
- the formulation and delineation of adequate definitions and terminology and agreement for their use.
- that world evangelization terminology be standardized for the 1990's by a committee of missiologists from the major world mission entities, e.g. SBC, EFMA, IFMA, etc. This to be accomplished by the end of 1990, earlier if possible.
- Create committee to do definition of statistical data necessary to evaluate unreached peoples both on a one-page form as well as complex form giving data necessary to evaluate various entry-methodologies to these unreached peoples.
- a clear call for agencies/ministries to collaborate together on specific unreached peoples (according to the '82

definition) for implementing specific plans to see these peoples reached.

Research/statistics

—That the [Lausanne] Statistics Task Force complete its report given in Manila and distribute it, along with its future reports in five formats; 1) desktop 2) book, 3) diskette, 4) online, 5) popular summary articles

— a committee be formed from different backgrounds to seek to refine the blending of Adopt-A-People, NRM's and unreached people group research. — that we pursue standardization at all levels of the missions industry (terms, statistics, data bases)

Databases

— prioritize the development of a working partnership between major researchers to develop as comprehensive as possible a database on all people groups in the world, the degree of Gospel penetration among them, and important information on all groups who are targeting them.

—That a survey of the 3030 unevangelized segments be published by August 1990 and translated into the Lausanne languages.

—That the global databases seek to become as intercommunicable as possible by developing common standards for information sharing among themselves.

— micro-level research be encouraged and linked to macro-level data bases

— Train all missionaries to do useable research on unreached peoples adjacent to their work.

— Create generic tools so that other networks could train and send out thousands of micro-level research teams in the next several years.

— Create a generic methodology similar to Ross Campbell's work in Ghana to help others to research all peoples in their nations.

— the standardization of data acquisition and reporting in researching and monitoring the reaching of unreached peoples.

— the IFMA & EFMA provide the primary information pool for frontier mission research. That they facilitate the development of national research functions (with LCWE, AD 2000, DAWN and other movements which have this objective) and that they link up with these functions for the giving and receiving of data.

Matching

—That an effective tracking and sharing mechanism for "work among" information be set up that will protect confidentiality of sensitive information.

— re-birth of work-among listing

—That future consultations of mission agencies, whether home based or field, give themselves to sharing specific evangelistic strategies in operation as well as planned (i.e. success stories). Time should be available for people to organize (network) on how they can work together (in various groups) and share their plans with the conference. This should be repeated annually or as often as needed.

— Provide matching data bank between equipping agencies, sending agencies, NRM identified opportunities, etc.

Adopt-a-people

—I believe that the SFM should advocate the undertaking of a widely collaborative effort to prepare 2,000 unreached people profiles (1-2 pages) and distribute them to global prayer networks. Furthermore, unreached people and cities with unevangelized people having at least one prayer coordinator and network focusing on that segment until it is reached.

—I believe the SFM should advocate the intentional spawning of hundreds and thousands of networks/task forces around; a) ministries to the unreached; b) unreached peoples groups.

— Immediate production of profiles on at least the 2000 peoples...then the 10,000 remaining people groups.

— a comprehensive "adoption" standard to include partners with the third world missionaries, NRM's, and research participation.

— I believe the SFM should go on record as advocating: an international "Adopt-a-people clearing house" function, calling on agencies to supply staff, resources, etc. to get this thing going.

— Immediate implementation of the AAP clearinghouse as a very high priority.

— the use of adopt-a-people concept to rally specific action from the churches, but not necessarily the "adopt" term (implies paternalism)

—Encouraging the Adopt-a-People Clearinghouse (as run by William Carey Int'l. University) to produce generic standards for adopt-a-people, which would insure quality quality control on steps such as awareness, commitment,

cross-cultural contact, engagement.

Mobilization

— the importance and role of the local church as God's agency for cross-cultural evangelism, discipleship, and church planting.

— the continuing role that short-term missions are having mobilizing the U.S. pastors and lay leaders to foster a stronger vision for the frontiers and a commitment to build local church based leadership for completing the Great Commission.

— a greater inclusion of the Charismatic/renewal phenomenon world-wide and assisting these "renewed" believers in participating with the unfinished task. — as stating that the focus and energy of the U.S. church and its current missions' efforts are not adequate to evangelize World A.

— to the North American church (IFMA/EFMA/SBC) a commitment to AD 2000's goals with a focus on "A" world and Harvest in "B."

— a radical redeployment of all resources and people to world A.

—That we publically, in reference to the Unfinished Task, emphasize the priority of the 2,000 peoples and then shift by the mid-90's to emphasize the 12,000 people groups by 2000.

—Encourage collaboration of a) home front mobilizers b) micro-researchers and c) NRM advocates. These three areas could build on each other. Each is a related form of mobilization (home-front will lead to frontlines).

— more involvement in reaching the international students and others from the third world that God is bringing to our doorstep and helping these people to become missionaries.

— a clarification and promotion the concept of the call to plant church planters - indigenous workers and indigenous mission agencies among the third world and the unreached.

Prayer

— inescapable conclusion we must mobilize people into Christ and the spiritual dynamics behind world evangelization.

— that the task of mobilization in the U.S. must be a prophetic ministry. It call the church to repentance in light of impending judgement for her disregard of the Great Commission.

— prayer for revival and spiritual awakening is essential at consultations.

- a mandate that our top priority is to hear from God as to our actions, rather than being so busy doing "His" work.
- rejoicing in the reception by mission-minded churches of the Concerts of Prayer movement.
- to prayer networks worldwide how they can use two page prayer profiles on the 2000 least evangelized peoples.

Mission Study

- the inauguration and maintenance of a continual, massive educational campaign for the Christian public to understand the task of world evangelization and the progress toward the completion of the task. This should be in the form of material that is understandable to lay persons - graphs, charts, models, etc.
- A national conference to speak prophetically to educate & equip denominational leaders including presidents and Christian educational leaders.
- The development in the next year of a high quality (possibly a state of the art video), Sunday School program for adults thoroughly training them in frontiers missions—Biblical, historical, cultural & strategic perspectives.
- The rapid creation of thousands of mission study and prayer fellowships in every congregation in each denomination in America (following McGavran's Giant step proposal).
- a call to seminary professors and administrators to adopt an intergrated study of world evangelization in their theological education.
- missions courses in every Christian college, especially in teachers colleges, with a minimum of at least one course required of teachers.
- missions education in the curriculum

of every Christian day school K-12 and until much time that this can be implemented they write to All Nations Mission Education and the U.S. Center for World Mission for suggestions and resources on teaching missions in schools daily.

Kaleidoscopic Global Action Plan (KGAP)

- commend it to other leaders, broad agreement among evangelical leaders on the points of the KGAP.
- advocate the overarching goal of world evangelization by AD 2000 and the general directives of the kaleidoscopic Global Plan as a means to reaching that end.
- the implementation of KGAP concerns/action points.
- that the KGAP be further refined, especially in printed statements so that understanding of it is clear, to avoid unnecessary skepticism!
- Provide venue to ensure that key tasks of kaleidoscopic Global Plan are "owned" by mission groups. If something is not being covered, then SFM should try to mobilize a group to do this task.
- SFM should request an existing task-force/agency database to implement ASAP action points 48-51 (resource information) of the KGAP
- SFM request an existing task force (or if none exists, appoint a task force) to implement immediately action point 55 of the KGAP.
- a Global desk in every Great Commission agency.
- to the AD 2000 group and other "tracks" a commitment to embrace the KGAP and work through the who/we

issues and let SFM and others know what is left of the 109 points that need to be claimed by others.

- the mega 2000 plan people need to coordinate

Task Force

- need to advocate the multichanneled implementation of the kalidescope global action plan
- this will require some centralized monitoring functions to evaluate progress on the world being evangelized. This would best be served by a number of AD 2000 office networks who take specific responsibility for various tasks in the monitoring process as well as keeping the "call" clear among Great Commission Christians.

NEWS

The 5th Annual International Society for Frontier Missiology meeting will be held at the Northglenn Holiday Inn immediately preceding next year's joint IFMA/EFMA meeting. The dates are September 13-15 from Thursday night dinner to Saturday lunch. For more info write or call or fax: Todd Johnson, secretary, ISFM, P.O. Box 129, Rockville, VA 23146 USA. Phone 804-353-0151 ext. 610. Fax 804-358-0504.

The ISFM is officially sponsoring the first ever International Adopt-A-People clearinghouse meeting in London next year from October 22-25, 1990. The meeting will be invitation only and will be held at the Wycliffe Center. For more information write or call or fax: Darrell Dorr, 1605 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104 USA. Phone 818-398-2229. Fax 818-398-2263.

D

■ At f world emerg nology cally in these p fighting world cess th plans a

THE M
The Plan

More th following ment for

Mars is planet o safely la warm a is a chil thin car out at t skies, fi vast ext thing o would o sandsto the spee dark m and mar

Mars formatio but also origins environ had abu pened to world b compar thing in to know

The of Mars the dive embrace many gr

- As for the on Ma plic der