

# STUDENTS ADOPT 23 UNREACHED PEOPLES: A MODEL OF A NORTHWEST MISSION RENEWAL MOVEMENT

■ The following is a description a working model of the Proclaim movement, a mission renewal movement among students in the Pacific Northwest, USA. The model is described in two parts. Part one lists 8 foundational convictions that have influenced the design and direction of the movement. Part two describes the specific elements of the vision and structure of the movement.

By Boyd W. Morris

## Foundations Of The Movement

1. *Delegated Power and Authority.* God is a Sovereign King who administers his kingdom by the principle of delegated authority. The Father has given all authority in heaven and on earth to Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:18). Christ, in turn, is now administrating this authority "through the church" to demonstrate the manifold wisdom of God to principalities and powers in the heavenly realms (Eph. 3:10).

2. *Unified Purpose and Structure.* It is the Father's will to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ (Eph. 1:10). God's pattern is one unified purpose and one unified authority structure with Christ as head to carry out that purpose. Thus, fullness of unity in the church is necessary for the fulfillment of God's purpose through the church (John 17:23).

3. *Discipling Nations.* Christ has commissioned the church to "disciple all nations" (Matt. 28:19). Although this task includes discipling individuals, it ultimately involves discipling the nations these individuals are members of. The full release of Christ's authority through a united church is necessary to complete this task. Although the church today has some power to win individuals to Christ we believe greater power and unity in the church is needed to disciple whole nations.

4. *Restored Power.* We believe that God will restore the church in the last days to fullness of power and unity even beyond that of the church in the book of Acts. Yes, to our amazement he will show us even greater things than these (John 5:20) and will release such power that anyone who has faith in him will

do even greater things than Jesus did (John 14:12).

5. *Unified City Churches.* We believe that the New Testament pattern for visible unity in the local church is to be manifested supremely at the city level. The New Testament standard is for all the saints in a city to agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among them and so that they will be perfectly united in mind and thought (I Cor. 1:10). In the book of Acts, church planting teams (Apostolic teams) were birthed and sent out from unified city churches (Acts 13:1-3) and went forth to complete the task of discipling nations by founding church planting movements based out of unified city churches (Romans 15:19).

6. *Intercessory Prayer.* We believe that *the* means God has ordained to restore the church to the New Testament pattern of power and unity is intercessory prayer. The Lord promises to give the nations to those who ask him (Ps. 2:8; Rev. 2:26, 27). Therefore, all efforts in world evangelization not established by intercession will result in nothing of lasting eternal value and will be burned up on the day of judgement (I Cor. 3:15). Jesus Christ will spit out of his mouth those who engage in attempting to fulfill the Great Commission with the attitude that they "have acquired wealth and don't need a thing" (Rev. 3:17).

7. *The Wineskin Principle.* Men do not pour new wine into old wineskins (Matt. 9:17) and neither does God. We believe that God expects the church to prepare wineskins (i.e., proper authority structures such as unified city churches) before he will release the fullest measure of his new wine (i.e., the power of the Holy Spirit). The Scrip-

ture says that God withholds the new wine when his people are busy building their own houses while the temple of the Lord lies in ruins. (Haggai 1:9, 10).

8. *Plundering Nations.* Both renewal movements in the church and church planting movements among the unevangelized flourish or flounder according to the same set of building principles and spiritual dynamics. Therefore, we believe that leaders who are first trained properly to pray for and structure renewal movements in "Jerusalem" will be the most effective laborers in establishing church planting movements in "the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Laborers who first learn to plunder the kingdom of darkness in their home cities and regions will be better prepared to exercise sufficient power and authority to pull down Satanic principalities and powers over entire nations.

## Vision And Structure Of The Movement

There are seven facets to the overall vision and structure of the Proclaim movement.

### 1. A vision for the church and the nations.

The vision of the Proclaim movement springs from the eternal perspective that it is the desire of the Son to redeem a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (Rev. 5:9). The Son is now purifying this people to be a glorified church that will be the Father's inheritance (Eph. 1:18; Deut 32:9). Furthermore, it is the Father's desire to give the nations to his Son as his inheritance (Ps. 2:8). The movement has adopted this interrelated, two-fold vision for the church and

the nations.

## 2. Stirring the church, adopting people groups.

Our eternal perspective for the church and the nations is translated into the two-fold emphasis on spiritual renewal and world evangelization. This vision is expressed by the movement as, "Students mobilizing to stir the church to complete world evangelization."

First, the movement is committed to *fullness in the church*. Our vision is to stir up current church leaders and influence the upcoming generation of church leaders (Christian students) to be zealous in prayer and planning for the restoration of the church to the New Testament pattern of power and unity, especially at the city level. Therefore, many of the programs and activities of the Proclaim movement are viewed as an "arena" in which to raise up leaders. Although we rejoice when hundreds come to a regional student missions conference, we rejoice even more knowing that the students who were trained to organize the conference have been better prepared to serve the church.

Second, the movement is committed to *fulfilling the Great Commission*. Based on the fact that the church in North America has enough resources to reach at least 6,000 of the remaining 12,000 unreached peoples, and that the church in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington has the resources to reach at least 460 out of this 6,000, the Northwest student movement is adopting 23 (5%) of these 460 unreached peoples. Our vision is to mobilize an average of 700 students as home-front supporters per unreached people group. In all, the movement seeks to attain and maintain a mobilized home-front of over 16,000 students to pray and give toward these 23 unreached peoples. The larger vision of the movement is to stir the whole church in the Northwest, by its example and influence, to adopt at least 460 unreached peoples.

## 3. A renewal movement within the church.

A new mission movement is spreading through the entire church. An increasing number of students from various fellowships (of local congregations and Christian campus groups) have been committing to the agenda of this movement since the early 1970's. Now

this movement is beginning to take on a more visible, organized form as people link together in various kinds of *commitment* structures such as Mission Accountability Groups, Concerts of Prayer, Perspectives courses, and regional missions conferences. Even more recently, *coordination* structures such as city and regional mobilization teams have been organized to facilitate communication throughout the movement.

The Proclaim movement is an organized expression of this renewal movement among students in the Northwest, USA. It is not a creation of any single person or organization, but is rather a prayerful, organized and cooperative *response* of Christians from many fellowships to what God is already doing. The Proclaim movement is not *the* student mission movement in the Northwest, but only one of many valid expressions of the growing mission renewal movement within the church.

The Proclaim movement is a specific form or stream of Christian discipleship that exists *within* many fellowships. It is a committed community of individuals from various fellowships who covenant together to fulfill a common mission. Every person active in

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the movement is first an active member of a local congregation or campus group. They live out their shared mission commitments *within* these fellowships.

The Proclaim movement relates to congregations and campus groups like a new shoot relates to the branch from which it sprouts. The shoot owes its origin and continued growth to the branch and in turn contributes new vitality and energy to the life of the entire tree, and especially to that branch from which it sprouted.

## 4. A church-based, student-focused movement.

The Proclaim movement regards Christian students as members of the church, whether they are currently active in congregations or Christian cam-

pus groups. We believe students are one of the most strategic homogeneous groups to mobilize within the church. Not only are they a group ready to champion a cause today, they are the church of tomorrow. God has repeatedly used the student world to launch spiritual renewal movements in the church.

## 5. A commitment to releasing leadership.

Our commitment to raising up leaders for the harvest is especially influenced by our foundational convictions that 1) the Great Commission is a command to disciple whole nations, not just individuals, and that 2) renewal movements and church planting movements unfold according to similar building principles and spiritual dynamics.

Opportunities and training for leadership in the Proclaim movement exist at local, city, and regional levels. Movement leaders engage in similar kinds of spiritual conflicts and organizational issues faced by cross-cultural church planting teams. They first learn to pray and plan for a movement of God in their local congregations and campus groups, then in their city, and finally in the region. Some of these will go on to believe God for renewal movements in other regions of North America. Ultimately, we pray that many will leave the Northwest equipped to plunder entire nations for the kingdom of God.

The city and regional leaders work together in mobilization teams organized as *mission communities*. The community dynamic releases a higher percentage of students into responsible involvement in the movement than could be achieved by centralizing responsibility in a few leaders at the top of a hierarchical management structure. Thus, job descriptions are defined in such a way that it is impossible for someone not spiritually gifted by God in a particular area to fulfill that role. For example, those gifted as enablers—the potentially future apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers of the church (Eph 4:11)—are disciplined to carry out the general oversight and coordination of City and Regional Mobilization Teams. Others who have specific ministry gifts, but not enabling gifts, serve in areas of responsibility under the authority of the

team leaders.

Students discover their spiritual gifts and role in the movement primarily through participating in a Mission Accountability Group. MAGs provide a relatively safe community environment where students can test their wings at leading prayer meetings, mission Bible studies, coordinating finances, etc. Most of the leadership for the movement rises naturally out of these small groups.

The authority structure between local mobilizers, and City and Regional Mobilization Teams is founded on covenant relationships rather than on organizational policies handed down from a regional office. Although there are clear leadership standards and operating procedures among the leadership of the movement, team leaders learn to cooperate on the basis of mutual trust developed out of relationships in community.

#### 6. The process and structures of commitment.

In the Proclaim movement *individual* commitment is broken down into 3 steps. Those who take at least step 1 can express their involvement through 4 *corporate* commitment structures. We'll look first at the 3 steps of individual commitment.

*Step 1: Adopting an Unreached People Group.* Students identify with the Proclaim movement by signing the Caleb Declaration which reads, "By the grace of God and for His glory, I commit my entire life to obeying His commission of Matthew 28:18-20, wherever and however He leads me, giving priority to the peoples currently beyond the reach of the Gospel (Romans 15:20-21). In the Proclaim movement, the lifestyle standards of signing this declaration include giving financially, and praying daily for 1 of the 23 unreached people groups adopted by the movement. Students are automatically linked with as many as 700 others from their city in adopting the *same* unreached people group.

*Step 2: Joining a Mission Accountability Group.* The goal of the Proclaim movement is to link at least 6,000 of the 16,000 students in the movement into 500 Mission Accountability Groups (MAGs). The average size of a MAG is 12 people. MAGs regularly link together individuals for times of encouragement and accountability to their mission commitments. People in these groups are no more committed to Christ than

others in their fellowships. They are however, usually more committed to each other and to the specific people group they have adopted.

*Step 3: Serving as a mobilizer in the movement.* Leadership for the movement is primarily raised up out of the Mission Accountability Groups. The community environment of MAGs is ideal for people to discover their ministry gifts. Some MAG members will become mission coordinators for their congregation or campus group. Others will link with mobilizers from other fellowships to form city and regional mobilization teams.

There are 4 kinds of corporate commitment structures that give the movement visibility.

*Mission Accountability Groups at the local level.* Mission accountability Groups are the infra-structure of the entire Proclaim movement. They are the primary means of linking people in the movement together face-to-face.

*Concerts of Prayer at the city level.* City-wide Concerts of Prayer meet every few months and gather people from many different congregations and campus groups. They provide one vital source of intercessory prayer for the development of unified city churches.

*Perspectives on the World Christian Movement at the city level.* This mission study course draws together the biblical, historic, strategic and culture foundations of mission renewal movements. More than just a course, *Perspectives* helps to link people together at the city level who share a common mission vision.

*Proclaim Conferences at the regional level.* The annual Proclaim conferences provide a forum for expressing the unity of the regional movement through times of corporate worship, prayer, the renewal of covenant commitments, and the gathering of movement leaders for times of fellowship and strategy planning.

#### 7. Coordination structures of the movement.

The Proclaim movement is coordinated by local mobilizers, and City and Regional mobilization teams. Although these mobilizers focus primarily on students, we expect the city and regional teams to serve as "seeds" for establishing full-scale Centers for World Mission and or Area offices of such Centers. Each time this happens these student

mobilization teams will simply become the student mobilization divisions of these Centers and Area offices.

*Local mobilizers and mission committees.* These individuals and committees coordinate the adopt-a-people effort within their own local congregations or campus groups. Although most of their mission responsibilities are unique to their home fellowships, at least part of their time and energy is devoted to communicating and exchanging resources with the Proclaim movement.

*City Mobilization Teams.* CMTs are responsible for coordinating all the mobilization efforts connected with one adopt-a-people effort. They work with mobilizers and mission committees from different congregations and campus groups in a city. An average CMT seeks to attain and maintain a mobilized force of 700 students from the city who pray and give toward the *same* unreached people group.

When the Northwest church adopts all 460 unreached peoples, a CMT of the Proclaim movement will be only one of an average of 20 adopt-a-people efforts per Area. As 23 (projected) Area offices of Regional Centers for World Mission are established, Proclaim movement CMTs will essentially become the student mobilization divisions of these Area offices. One Area office will help coordinate an average of 20 adopt-a-people efforts.

*The Regional Mobilization Team.* The RMT, the Proclaim Committee based in Portland, Oregon, establishes, trains, and coordinates with the City Mobilization Teams. While each CMT has general oversight of one adopt-a-people effort per city, the Proclaim Committee exercises oversight of each CMT by building bridges of communication and cooperation with CMT leaders. The Proclaim Committee also serves as a link with leaders of other renewal movements and especially with other regional student mission movements in North America. ■

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#### Appendix: Northwest Adopt-A-people Area Strategy

The goal of the Proclaim movement

is to mobilize students in an Area to focus on adopting one unreached people and then to stir the church in each Area to adopt all of its proportionate share of unreached peoples.

#### Area 1. Northern Idaho

**Schools:** University of Idaho, North Idaho College, Lewis and Clark State College

**Counties:** Idaho, Lewis, Nez Perce, Latah, Clearwater, Shoshone, Benewah, Kootenai, Bonner, Boundary

**Churches:** 306

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 5

#### Area 2. Southwestern Idaho

**Schools:** Northwest Nazarene College, College of Idaho

**Counties:** Canyon, Gem, Payette, Washington, Adams, Valley, Lemhi

**Churches:** 220

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 4

#### Area 3. Southeastern Idaho

**Schools:** Boise Bible College, Boise State University, Idaho State University, College of Southern Idaho

**Counties:** Ada, Boise, Owyhee, Custer, Elmore, Camas, Gooding, Blaine, Lincoln, Jerome, Twin Falls, Cassia, Minidoka, Butte, Jefferson, Clark, Fremont, Madison, Teton, Bonneville, Bingham, Power, Bannock, Oneida, Franklin, Bear Lake, Caribou

**Churches:** 899

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 16

#### Area 4. Greater Portland Area (1)

**Schools:** Multnomah School of the Bible, Portland Bible College, Portland State University, Mount Hood Community College

**Counties:** Multnomah, Hood River, Wasco, Sherman

**Churches:** 316

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 24

#### Area 5. Greater Portland Area (2)

**Schools:** Warner Pacific College, Columbia Christian College, University of Portland

**Counties:** Multnomah

**Churches:** 243

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 19

#### Area 6. Greater Portland Area (3)

**Schools:** Western Seminary, Concordia College, Oregon Health Sciences University, Reed College, Portland Community College

**Counties:** Washington

**Churches:** 73

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 6

#### Area 7. Greater Portland Area (4)

**Schools:** Western Evangelical Seminary,

Lewis and Clark, Clackamas Community College

**Counties:** Clackamas

**Churches:** 183

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 14

#### Area 8. Northwestern Oregon

**Schools:** George Fox College, Linfield College, Pacific College, Clatsop Community College

**Counties:** Yamhill, Tillamook, Columbia

Clatsop, Washington

**Churches:** 132

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 10

#### Area 9. Greater Salem Area

**Schools:** Western Baptist College, Willamette University, Chemeketa Community College, Western Oregon State College

**Counties:** Marion, Polk, Lincoln

**Churches:** 306

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 24

#### Area 10. Greater Corvallis Area

**Schools:** Oregon State University, Linn-Benton

**Counties:** Linn, Benton, Lincoln

**Churches:** 187

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 14

#### Area 11. Greater Eugene Area

**Schools:** Northwest Christian College, Eugene Bible College, University of Oregon, Lane Community College

**Counties:** Lane

**Churches:** 252

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 19

#### Area 12. Southern Oregon

**Schools:** Southern Oregon State College, Umqua Community College, Southwestern Oregon Community College, Rouge Community College, Oregon Institute of Technology

**Counties:** Klamath, Jackson, Josephine, Curry, Douglas, Coos, Lake

**Churches:** 497

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 38

#### Area 13. Central and Eastern Oregon

**Schools:** Blue Mountain Community College, Central Oregon Community College, Eastern Oregon State College, Treasure Valley Community College

**Counties:** Deschutes, Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Jefferson, Wheeler, Grant, Baker, Crook, Harney, Malheur

**Churches:** 417

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 32

#### Area 14. Northwestern Washington

**Schools:** Western Washington University, Whatcom, Community College, Skagit Valley College, Peninsula College

**Counties:** Whatcom, San Juan, Skagit

**Churches:** 203

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 14

#### Area 15. Greater Seattle Area (1)

**Schools:** Puget Sound Christian College, Edmonds Community College, Everett Community College, Rainier College, Highline Community College

**Counties:** Snohomish

**Churches:** 216

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 15

#### Area 16. Greater Seattle Area (2)

**Schools:** Seattle Pacific University, Cornish Institute, Griffin College, Seattle University, North Seattle College, Seattle Community College, South Campus, Seattle Central Community College, Shoreline Community College, Olympic College

**Counties:** King, Clallam, Kitsap, Jefferson, Island

**Churches:** 443

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 31

#### Area 17. Greater Seattle Area (3)

**Schools:** Lutheran Bible Institute, Northwest College of the Assemblies of God, Cascade Bible College, City University, Cogswell College North, Bellevue Community College, Green River Community College

**Counties:** King

**Churches:** 244

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 17

#### Area 18. Greater Seattle Area (4)

**Schools:** University of Washington

**Counties:** King

**Churches:** 244

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 17

#### Area 19. Southwestern Washington

**Schools:** Pacific Lutheran University, Evergreen State College, University of Puget Sound, Northwest Baptist Seminary, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary, Fort Steilacoom, Tacoma Community College, South Puget Sound Community College, Grays Harbor College, Lower Columbia College, Centralia College, Clark College

**Counties:** Pierce, Thurston, Mason, Grays Harbor, Pacific, Wahkiakum, Lewis, Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat

**Churches:** 820

**Peoples to be Adopted:** 57

#### Area 20. Central Washington

**Schools:** Central Washington University, Yakima Valley Community College, Big Bend Community College, Wenatchee Valley College, Heritage College, Columbia Basin College, Walla Walla Community College, Whitman College, Walla Walla College

Counties: Kittitas, Chelan, Okanogan, Yakima, Grant, Douglas

Churches: 520

Peoples to be Adopted: 36

**Area 21. Southeastern Washington**

Schools: Columbia Basin College, Walla Walla Community College, Whitman College, Walla Walla College

Counties: Benton, Franklin, Walla, Walla, Columbia, Adams

Churches: 201

Peoples to be Adopted: 14

**Area 22. Eastern Washington**

Schools: Washington State University

Counties: Whitman, Garfield, Astoin

Churches: 126

Peoples to be Adopted: 9

**Area 23. Northeastern Washington**

Schools: Whitworth College, Spokane Bible College, Eastern Washington University, Spokane Community College, Spokane Falls Community College, Gonzaga University

Counties: Spokane, Lincoln, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille

Churches: 371

Peoples to be Adopted: 26

Northwest Adopt-a-People Strategy		
Area	Churches	Peoples to be Adopted
1. Northern Idaho	306	5
2. Southwestern Idaho	220	4
3. Southeastern Idaho	889	16
4. Greater Portland Area (1)	316	24
5. Greater Portland Area (2)	243	19
6. Greater Portland Area (3)	73	6
7. Greater Portland Area (4)	183	14
8. Northwestern Oregon	132	10
9. Greater Salem Area	306	24
10. Greater Corvallis Area	187	14
11. Greater Eugene Area	252	19
12. Southern Oregon	497	38
13. Central & Eastern Oregon	417	32
14. Northwestern Washington	203	14
15. Greater Seattle Area (1)	216	15
16. Greater Seattle Area (2)	443	31
17. Greater Seattle Area (3)	244	17
18. Greater Seattle Area (4)	244	17
19. Southwestern Washington	820	57
20. Central Washington	520	36
21. Southeastern Washington	201	14
22. Eastern Washington	126	9
23. Northeastern Washington	371	26
<b>Total for 23 NW Areas</b>	<b>7,415</b>	<b>460</b>