

# The Changing Role of the U.S. Church in World Evangelization

■ Is the Church in the United States becoming increasingly active in reaching all peoples and every person with the gospel? The International Director of the AD 2000 & Beyond Movement presented compelling evidence at the 51st anniversary of the National Association of Evangelicals and EFMA executives in Orlando, Florida on March 8, 1993.

By Luis Bush

## Introduction

Have you noticed that sometimes God superintends the events of your life in such a way that you know it's Him doing it? A few weeks ago I was on a flight out of Colorado Springs. The plane was three-quarters empty. I always ask for a seat on the aisle. This time I found myself in the window seat. Next to me a gentleman sits down who had been assigned that seat. He told me he had seriously thought of sitting somewhere else but sat there anyway. We introduced ourselves. His name was Larry Stockstill, a minister in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. We began to chat and found a number of mutual friends. And then I asked him to share what God had been doing in his church.

The story that enfolded was of God superintending the events of his ministry in the U.S. that gave me hope in some new things that God is doing in the church in the U.S. in world evangelization. In his story I observed some changes in the role of the church in the United States in world evangelization.

Larry had been invited to take the pastorate of the church in 1985. Immediately he began to plan for an auditorium to seat 6000. The cost was to run nearly 4 million dollars. God impressed upon him that he should increase missions giving each year and that he would save on construction cost.

Larry discovered that there was an architect on staff. This saved one quarter of a million dollars. By January 1993 they had paid off the entire debt. During construction period, their missions commitment went from \$100,000 in 1985 proportionately until it reached \$1.1 million.

The bottom line: Over the seven year period the church gave almost twice to missions what they had put into the building. They did not solicit funds. They employed the Mueller method: No offering plates, no pledge system. Collection boxes were merely placed in the back. But they prayed much.

At the same time as construction for the building began, the congregation

started a 24-hour center for world evangelization. In fact the church is called Bethany World Prayer Center.

His youth pastor left the church to begin a new church in Colorado Springs. Dick Eastman has suggested that Ted Haggard has been like an apostle to Colorado Springs. He has encouraged many of the growing number of Christian ministries to come to the Springs. This past Thursday with the elders of the church he decided on purchasing a piece of property in Colorado Springs in which his vision to have a 100 people fasting and praying continuously for world evangelization.

As in the airplane incident and in the ministries of Larry Stockstill and Ted Haggard, in churches in the United States God is superintending the events of our time in such a manner that the hearts of people around the world are increasingly open to the gospel of Jesus Christ. People are more and more recognizing that there is a God-shaped vacuum in their heart that only God can fill. In fact ...

Even the secular world is telling us that. In *Time Magazine*, on March 30, 1992 there was a four page essay titled: "The Year 2000: Is it the end or just the beginning?" This article was written from an entirely secular perspective. The author was Henry Grunwald, a former U.S. ambassador to Austria, the heart of secular humanistic Western Europe, and former editor-in-chief of *Time Magazine*. The article was punctuated with photos of individuals representing some major ideologies of our time as we approach the year 2000: Lenin, Khomeini, Pope Paul II, JFK, and Neil Armstrong on the moon. Grunwald summarizes the article in the introduction when he says: "People feel as if the hand of God were turning a page in human fate. We have a sense of things ending and others beginning." He mentions three things:

- 1) First, he says, of course, we are witnessing the end of communism.
- 2) Second, we are witnessing the end of nationalism as we have known it and

beginning to look for new international arrangements.

3) And third, we are witnessing the end, or at least the decline, of the age of unbelief and the beginning of what may be a new age of faith.

This last point is the major thesis of the article and he clarifies his understanding of faith... concluding by saying: "Many people seem to want a faith that is rigorous or demanding, or else more personal... Throughout the Third World, Christian churches especially the Evangelicals are gaining more converts than ever before."

## Responding to Unprecedented Global Change

One of the responses and changing roles of the church in the United States has been to respond to these global ideological shifts. Perhaps nowhere in the world is this more evident right now than in the former USSR. A collection of sixteen republics with some 300 million people who are wide open to God's word. Unprecedented financial and personnel and mission resources have been deployed from the United States to those parts of the world. Hundreds of mission agencies, thousands of short and long term missionaries and millions upon millions upon millions of dollars have been sent to this part of the world. This is a new initiative of the church in the United States, in response to the sovereign working of God superintending the events of our time.

We're undoubtedly living in a *kairos* moment in church history. Even the secular world is telling us that. There is a unique blending of opportunity and divine appointment and the coming together of potential for fellowship in the Lord to accomplish the purposes that are on God's heart and revealed to us in His word. It is in this *kairos* moment that the church in the United States has a unique yet changing role in world evangelization.

We see then the purposes of God being displayed as He superintends the macro events of our time into which we

observe a changing role for the church in the United States as it seeks to respond to these unique opportunities.

### Increase in Prayer for World Evangelization

Second, there are evidences of increasing prayer in the role of the Church in the United States in world evangelization. An executive with one of the largest denominations in the United States recently told me over lunch: "Prayer has greatly increased in the last two years within our churches."

For instance on the day the new administration was being installed in Washington D.C. over 300 Christian leaders of prayer networks met for the first time at NCUF, the National Consultation on United Prayer. After much prayer and discussion a call to prayer was issued on January 21 as follows:

We recognize our absolute dependence on God and our desperate need for divine intervention. We believe God is urging us to call all Christians of America to unite in humility and repentance across ethnic and church boundaries to pray consistently for a moral and spiritual awakening in the body of Christ.

This was followed by a covenant to promote this call as broadly as possible, to individually commune with God and pray with faith daily, to encourage and participate regularly in corporate, believing prayer, to fast as God prompts, to seek reconciliation and participation with all our brothers and sisters from all races and to pray until God sovereignly acts.

Many stayed over for the piggy backed seminar with a view to focused prayer in churches throughout the United States for world evangelization in strategic warfare prayer. The format was a videoed seminar for churches planning involvement in Praying Through the 10/40 Window in October of 1993. Observing what God did with Marxism and recognizing that it will take more than sending a few more missionaries there is a growing mood of prayer involvement by churches in the United States to penetrate the strongholds in the 10/40 Window.

The 10/40 Window does not refer to the special tax form for returning missionaries about this time of the year or as George Verwer has jokingly suggested: a disguised way of describing the zipper. Rather it refers to the imaginary belt between 10 degrees north of the equator, to forty degrees north of the equator, and extending from Western Africa across the Middle East to Asia.

At the international consultation with some 350 people sponsored by Regent

University on the unreached last year the resolution was stated as follows:

We need to continue building on previous foundations in reaching the unreached because we recognize that the real battle for world evangelization is against the principalities and powers which can only be overcome by united prayer and the use of spiritual weapons and because the Great Commission can best be accomplished by the total involvement of the Body of Christ.

We therefore resolve with all evangelical movements to commit ourselves to personal and corporate prayer, to fast, to plan and to mobilize for a joint spiritual effort in October 1993 together with an expected 1 million Christians from around the world for the loosening of strongholds and spiritual breakthroughs among the unreached.

Every Home for Christ has already contacted their 70 global offices encouraging their involvement in helping alert EHC's estimated 250,000 global prayer partners to not only fast at least one day each week during that month, but to help form thousands of small prayer groups who'll meet at least once a week during October, 1993, to specifically target the 10/40 Window.

Jane Hansen, vice-chairperson of Praying Through the Window, said, "I am excited to see the almost 500,000 women identified with Women's Aglow International in 2500 chapters scattered across 105 nations become involved with this bold campaign to focus prayer on the 10/40 Window." In fact she met with almost 5000 from Women Aglow across the United States a few months ago. There was a lengthy time of prayer and consecration. They committed themselves to the goal of mobilizing one million women around the world for this initiative and took an offering on the spot for \$40,000 for the prayer initiative.

One church purchased 8,000 copies of the 10/40 Window article, another 5,000; one denomination with over 5,000 churches in this country is considering sending it to each of the churches in the denomination.

Already 40 countries have at least one church/ministry praying, 110 church/ministries have selected countries to focus upon and 71 church/ministries are taking journeys in October 1993.

### Ethnic Churches More Involved in World Evangelization.

In addition a third observable change in the role of the churches in the U.S. in world evangelization relates to the increasing place of ethnic churches in the

United States in world evangelization. When you observe the rapidly growing missions force in the Two-Thirds world, you begin to recognize what effect this is having on the role of churches in the United States in world evangelization.

Take the Chinese churches in the United States for example. Representative leaders met in August three years ago under the auspices of CCCOWE-NA and the theme "Toward 2000, Transition and Transformation." In the keynote paper by Freda Cheung, a PhD working with the Minority Research Resources Branch of the United States Government, she dealt with the subject: "Understanding Change: The Shaping Forces that are Changing the North American Chinese Community."

With some 800 local churches sprinkled throughout the U.S. and growing at 8% per year the expectation is that there will be 2000 Chinese local churches by the year 2000. With so few churches, they nevertheless have a disproportionate influence in this country when it comes to world evangelization. Spearheaded by Dr. Thomas Wang, who apart from being the chairman of the International Board of the AD 2000 & Beyond Movement is the president of the Great Commission Seminary, teams of Chinese pastors have gone out on evangelistic outreaches, church planting efforts, catalyzation of national leadership toward the year 2000 and the establishing of seminaries throughout the former Soviet Union.

Then there are the Hispanics. In September of this year, right here in Orlando, the first missionary congress for Hispanics of North America will be held. They are planning for 3000 participants. The president of COMHINA, sponsored by the Latin American missions movement called COMIBAM, is Jose Cintron who is with us today. Cintron pastors one of the largest and fastest growing Hispanic churches in the United States. The church has become increasingly involved in missions. Their staff are heavily involved in the logistical support of COMHINA (Congreso Misionero para los Hispanos de Norteamérica) the name of the conference scheduled in September. A few years ago El Calvario, the church pastored by brother Cintron, hosted a Latin America continent-wide COMHINA meeting to reach the Moslem world. Since then a number of professionals and Christian workers who were at the meeting are now serving in the Moslem world, including the director of the Symphony Orchestra of El Salvador. Missions to the Moslem world Latin-style is radical. "When a new missionary works with us," Pedro Carrasco, a leading force in

this initiative was quoted in a continent-wide magazine, "he or she interns for four months in womb of the culture, without any other support except the Lord and our prayers from Spain. There is no other way to get started."

The President of COMIBAM, Rudy Giron, this very week is participating in the fourth island-wide missions conference in Puerto Rico. They are pursuing the goal set two years ago to adopt and send missionaries to one hundred unreached people groups in the world. He has been in cities across the United States in the last few months encouraging the Hispanic community of churches to become more involved in world evangelization. An association for Hispanic churches is functioning in the Chicago area.

And then we see the growing role of the Korean churches in the United States in World evangelization. John Ko, the newly elected general secretary of the Korean World Mission Council and pastor of a mission-minded Korean Church, also called Calvary, in New York City, reported recently that there are some 3000 Korean local churches currently in the United States. They are growing at 8% per year as are the Chinese churches. (Compare this to zero percent growth of the Anglo churches in North America.) Last year they held one of the best organized missions conferences for Korean church leaders in Wheaton College. On the first evening some 350 Korean missionaries sent out from churches in North America sat on the platform as many responded to the invitation of Billy Kim that first evening to offer themselves as missionaries with tears, in a spirit of brokenness and reverential awe. I was amazed to hear that over ten percent of the population of seminaries around the church today are Korean students. Over 1000 attended the last Urbana conference. Specific goals have been set for the number of Korean missionaries from the United States to the mission field by the year 2000.

Overall we see more and more ethnic churches in the United States taking part in world evangelization.

#### Growing International Partnerships

A fourth feature of the changing role of the Church in the United States in world evangelization is increased partnership in world evangelization. Christian mission has always faced a future demanding constant adaptation to change. But the contemporary communication revolution has brought unprec-

edented challenges to the Church in the United States. Many church and mission leaders now believe that genuine partnerships is the only way to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the this last decade of the century and millennium and as we move into a new century and millennium. This was the conclusion of a working Consultation on Partnership in World Mission held at the Billy Graham Center in

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Wheaton May 1991, co-sponsored by the EFMA, which produced a helpful document on different models of partnership in world evangelization.

Another major partnership consultation was held at the World Evangelical Fellowship Mission Commission gathering last year, coordinated by Bill Taylor. ACMC (led by Bill Waldrop) took "Partnership" as its primary conference theme last year. Both the discussion and the reality of Christian partnership and cooperation in world evangelization has taken enormous strides in the U.S., marking another change in the role of the church in the U.S. in world evangelization.

Partners International, one of the pioneers of developing interdependent partnerships around the world celebrated fifty years of linking viable national ministries in the Two-Thirds world with willing supportive churches in the Western world. Project 2000 was an effort begun in 1986 to establish at least 2000 churches among 2000 unreached communities by the year 2000. In the first six years a total of almost 3000 local churches and preaching points were started with almost 80% of them in the 10/40 Window.

Phil Butler of Interdev, with many years of experience in developing 12 strategic level partnerships among the most unreached peoples of the world, in seeing the growing interest in partnership, is transferring that expertise in training sessions to many multinational future facilitators of future strategic level partnerships, particularly in the

10/40 Window.

And then there is the former Soviet Union. Public school officials and others have invited Christian ministries to fill the spiritual vacuum left by seventy years of Marxist tyranny. The opportunity here, the invitation given, enter the CoMission, now representing over 80 Christian organizations and millions of dollars.

The opportunity here, the invitation given, enter CBN with remarkable numbers of decisions, an estimated 30 million according to surveys, 5 million written inquiries, 1000 requests for correspondence courses per day. CBN in conjunction with Regent University and AIMS offered to partner with any evangelical mission working in the former USSR. They even offered sharing the decision cards. Now they are in the process of holding 40 major church planting rallies across the former USSR.

The opportunity here, the invitation given, enter AD 2000 for a consultation with national Christian leaders from the former USSR. Out of it comes a commitment to plant the church throughout the region so that there be a church for every people and the gospel available to every person by the year 2000. Out of it comes a Master Alliance of more than ten major Christian church planting organizations. A unique link between the Master Alliance and the CoMission is John Kyle, chairman of the US Board of AD 2000, on the executive committee of the Master Alliance and the chairman of the church planting arm of the CoMission.

#### AD2000 Movement Growing

A fifth observable change of the church in the U.S. is its growing involvement in the AD 2000 & Beyond Movement. How is the goal of a church for every people and the gospel for every person by the year 2000 progressing? It's a matter almost of standing back and watching what the Holy Spirit is doing in the hearts of so many denominational leaders and Christian organization leaders here and around the world. There are some 2000 global plans among Christian organizations to the year 2000. At least one half of these were birthed in the United States.

For example, there are the denominational plans to the year 2000. The first of these was the Southern Baptist plan called Bold Mission Thrust begun in 1975. With 25 years to go they established specific measurable goals to seek to fulfill the overall objective of every

person hearing the gospel in a language they could understand by the year 2000. Several years ago they realized they could not do it alone, so they called forth "Dallas I" to share their findings with other Christian groups. Recently a meeting was held called "Toward 2000," bringing together denominational leaders in the U.S. with an AD 2000 vision plan.

Christian organizations such as Campus Crusade for Christ with New Life 2000 are making a remarkable impact around the globe with a very specifically defined plan to help fulfill the Great Commission.

Partnerships to the year 2000 such as "World by 2000" linking the four major Christian radio networks have come together often setting the pace in plans for the year 2000.

Local churches are developing plans to the year 2000. Walt Kallestad, pastor of Community Church of Joy, an evangelical Lutheran church in the Phoenix area has a plan to the year 2000 for 28,000 members from the 7,000 members today. If the church continues to grow as it has over the last 12 years from its beginning of less than 100 members squabbling over the color of the carpet it will happen. The property has already been set aside for the facilities to house that many people.

A national U.S. AD 2000 plan was presented and discussed at hosting church Community Church of Joy last September with some 300 Christian leaders from 50 cities across the United States. It was based on four major pillars focused on the cities of America: united prayer, evangelistic outreach, transformation ministries in the city and missions mobilization. As a follow-up, over 300 people from the pastors, Christians in the market place, media, women and other groups are meeting for Twin Cities 2000 in Minneapolis in the near future. A number of other cities across the United States are requesting similar consultations.

Ten resource networks with their own goals to the year 2000 provide resources to others. One Western mission agency director wrote every one of the mission leaders in the mission explaining what the AD 2000 & Beyond Movement was and how the mission could participate in the different resource networks around the world.

#### Growing Optimism: The Task Can Be Completed

A sixth notable change in the attitude of many church leaders in the U.S. is the very real possibility of world evangelization in our time. In asking the question about the changes with respect to the U.S. churches in world evangeli-

zation to Peter Nanfelt, international vice president of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, he answered something interesting. He said, "There is more expectation that world evangelization is actually possible." It has moved within the realm of possibility.

There is a sense today of the do-ability of the task. One hundred years ago there was a similar vision for the evangelization of the world by the end of century. However, in 1895, it was A.T. Pierson who said: "We despaired of hope." The two primary reasons he gave, were, first, because we did not mobilize prayer and second because we did not cooperate. Both of those factors are strongly on the increase today.

So why is there a growing sense of the do-ability of the task of world evangelization among Christians in the U.S.? Here are the reasons:

1) Because of divinely initiated breakthroughs, such as the one in the Marxist world. It's harvest time.

2) Because of the increasing prayer mobilization among God's people such as the 10/40 October prayer initiative...

William Kumuyi, pastor of a church with over 80,000 adult members in Nigeria, has just written to 20,000 ministers with a set of materials inviting each to mobilize at least one hundred members of their congregation.

Japanese Christians in Osaka have rented the largest stadium in Osaka for 60,000 people to pray for Japan and the 10/40 Window in October 1993.

3) Because of the participation of the people from different ethnic backgrounds in the task of world evangelization such as can be observed among the Chinese, Koreans, Hispanics right here in the United States.

4) Because of the spiritual initiatives around the world to the year 2000.

Perhaps, this has never been quite so clear to me as when standing a month ago amidst more than 12,000 black African ministers of the gospel from more than 2150 African denominations and forty five countries. With raised hands toward heaven they were all praying aloud together as William Kumuyi was being commissioned as regional coordinator of AD 2000 for Africa. Kumuyi is pastor of the largest church in Africa, with missionaries in 35 countries and many languages of Africa, and meetings in 600 districts in Lagos. Minutes before, the "Africa 2000 Declaration" had been signed personally by over 10,100 ministers. This was a moment of dedication not only for William Kumuyi but for each one of them to the task that they had set out for themselves as they declared:

We consider that we are living in a singular moment in the history of the

church as we move toward the year 2000 and believe that God has graciously opened a window of opportunity for reaching all of Africa by the year 2000 and also participating together with Christians from other cultures in seeing a church for every people and the gospel for every person in the world by the year 2000....

We therefore commit ourselves to boldly seize this crucial moment to cooperate with what the Holy Spirit is doing and with one another by seeking to call all the members of our churches and all biblically based churches throughout Africa to the glorious task before us.

We commit ourselves to the goal of a church for every people and the gospel for every person in Africa by the year 2000. By this we mean that we will seek by any legitimate means possible, to make the gospel available to every African in a language they can understand by the year 2000. We will pray and work towards the goal of seeing Africa South of the Sahara predominantly Christian by the year 2000. (See Bush, *IJFM*, Vol. 10:1, Jan 1993, pp. 21-22 for the entire declaration.)

Many national consultations have been held during the course of the year. Despite the background sound of bullets, despite the price of the banana costing one million Zaires, despite the announcement on the radio that Monday, Wednesday and Fridays would be "dead days" when no one would work and there would be no public transportation, despite the country moving more and more toward a pre-colonial, small-village life with no way to get cash, following on from Africa 2000, Zaire 2000 was held.

The coordinating agency Day of Every Home for Christ, reported that "350 delegates attended, mostly leaders in Zaire's 63 denominations. Of them 133 had earlier been named to the tracks which they call branches." Veteran missionary Willys Braun, who was present went on to observe the value of the branches: "As I compare this national diversification of leadership focus with the old idea that the brain of the denominational president alone must contain and closely control every aspect of ministry in the life of the churches, I see great possibilities for the spiritual enrichment of the Church in the next eight years."

The vision is called "All for Christ" and they have divided the country into communities and plan to hold community-wide AD 2000 consultations June 8-10 with seminars related to the 10 major resource networks.

In the Philippines in 1974, with the encouragement of Jim Montgomery of DAWN Ministries who coordinates the

AD 2000 Saturation Church Planting Resource Network, set a goal of going from 5,000 to 50,000 local churches by the year 2000. As of December 1992 they were on track toward the target with over 31,000 local churches accounted for so far.

In Brazil the growth of the evangelical church and cross-cultural missions force has been staggering. The government has been taken aback. According to official census figures, in 1980 there were 12 million Protestant believers; in 1992 the number is up to 35 million. In the last five years the mission force has grown 150%. One Protestant church has the second largest communication network in Brazil. In the headlines of a major newspaper the AD 2000 announcement of just one denomination headlined: Fifty Million by 2000. In an AD 2000 co-sponsored congress in October, with the theme, "Mobilizing Brazil to the Year 2000," plans are to have the denominational and organizational goals to the year 2000 laid out.

Plans for the Korean church in the Korean AD 2000 movement are also staggering. The pastors of the fifteen largest churches in Korea have joined together on the steering committee. They are planning to have one million Koreans participating in the Prayer Through the Window in October 1993. They plan to have two million in the March for Jesus on June 25, 1994, titled by Peter Wagner, coordinator of the AD 2000 prayer track, "A Day to Change the World." They plan a tent meeting in July 1993 for 50,000 teenagers. They are hosting the Second Consultation on World Evangelization by the Year 2000 and Beyond in May of 1995 and have requested profiles of all the 4500 participants by January of 1994 in order to distribute to 4500 local churches for prayer for each and supply funds to cover all the internal costs of Two-Thirds world participants totaling two million dollars. They have over thirty resource networks tracks which they call departments.

5) The fifth reason that there is a growing sense of do-ability: The partnerships being forged in relation to the former USSR or in the 10/40 Window or along several interest networks.

6) In addition, our understanding of the task before us is clearer than ever. This is a sixth reason there is a growing sense of the do-ability of the task.

The Adopt-a-People Clearinghouse was established in March 1989 on the campus of William Carey International

University in a gathering of leaders of 48 mission agencies who recognized the need for an independent clearinghouse that would have an exclusive focus on the unreached peoples. The Adopt-A-People Clearinghouse has continued to grow to 75 agencies today. With the active participation of the mission agencies supplying over 3000 names of people groups considered to be unreached (and other entities that

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participated in the validation and assessment process), they are about to fulfill the first of their threefold commission: to compile a global database of unreached peoples to track which peoples are unreached. More than 125 documents representing 182 countries were sent back in response to the first draft of the listing. SIL has just completed reviewing every one of the 6500 or so people groups and cross-indexing them into a registry of all the languages and peoples of the world, spearheaded by Ron Rowland of SIL. This registry which should be completed by the Adopt-a-People II Consultation at the end of April 1993, provides a crucial link in the understanding of the task of a church for every people:

1. By giving a standard means of comparison between the various names given to peoples and languages in a variety of databases.
2. By establishing agreed codes which will facilitate the exchange of information between databases.
3. By developing means of pointing to other types of information, such as bibliographic sources.
4. By providing a list of peoples and languages with codes, so that the creation of any new databases related to peoples and/or languages can be compatible with existing information sources.

This registry will serve to validate the list of unreached and adoptable peoples compiled by Frank Kaleb Jansen at

the Adopt-A-People Clearinghouse. After careful review of the materials produced Clark Scanlon, Director for Planning and Research at the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention will use the World Evangelization Database to validate each of the line items on the list of 6500, providing further integrity of the list. MARC of World Vision are also supporting the publication as is the U.S. Center for World Mission.

As Ralph Winter writes in an editorial on article for the upcoming *Mission Frontiers* titled: "A Quantum Leap Forward in Missions." For many years now the evangelical church has been offered numbers when it come to estimates of the total number of unreached people groups in the world. The first estimate was 16,750, rounded to 17,000, then reduced to 12,000 and now 11,000 leading many to infer that great progress was being made and that a specific list of unreached peoples existed. But progress had little to do with the changing of numbers. The numbers changed as missiologists changed their estimates.

#### Conclusion

Along with Henry Grunwald, we might ask "The year 2000: Is it the end or the beginning?" this question: "Where will all this lead... Just possibly to a real new age of faith."

Notable changes are taking place in the role of the church in the U.S. in world evangelization: greater responsiveness to the divinely ordained opportunities such as in the former Soviet Union, increasing prayer, more involvement of ethnic U.S. churches in world evangelization, increased participation in the AD 2000 & Beyond Movement and vision, a real sense of the do-ability as well as a clearer understanding of the task.

As was stated in the Manila Manifesto with the representatives of 170 countries at the Lausanne II Conference in Manila in July 1989:

"The year 2000 has become for many a challenging milestone. The task is urgent. We are determined to obey Him with joy and hope. Can we commit ourselves to evangelize the world during the last decade of this millennium?" ■

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