Global Mission Issues Committee of April 5, 2016 Recommendations

Voted by the Mission Board on October 2, 2016

In view of:

1. The Great Commission commanding us to reach all peoples (Matt.28:18–20);
2. The call to be faithful in sharing the three angels' messages with unreached nations, languages, people groups, and cities (Rev 14:6);
3. The immense mission challenge of billions of people in unreached people groups;
4. The Global Mission mandate to focus on planting new congregations in the world's most challenging areas and people groups;

And whereas:

The Mission Board has adopted the following definitions:

1. *People Group*: A significantly large sociological grouping of people who perceive themselves to have a common affinity for one another because of shared language, ethnicity, religion, race, caste, occupation, education, and/or patterns of social interaction.

2. *Reached People Group*: In order for a people group to be considered "reached" by the three angels' messages, the following criteria must be considered:
   a. There are adequate numbers and resources to effectively witness to the group without outside assistance.
   b. They have the option to worship in their first language or "heart language," not only in a trade language or in translated worship services.

    c. They have access to the Bible and other key materials in their first language.

    d. They have indigenous church leaders who can witness to the rest of the people group without working through a translator.

3. *Unreached People Group*: A group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Adventists with adequate numbers and resources to effectively witness to that group without assistance from "outside" (e.g. foreign cultures or other people groups).

Therefore, it is recommended that:

1. The Office of Adventist Mission find funding to enable the divisions to partner with Global Mission Centers on specific key projects to plant groups of believers in high priority areas, among unreached people groups.

2. The General Conference, coordinated by Adventist Mission, create a taskforce to study how the Global Mission Centers can better assist the world church departments, services, and territories in planting new groups among unreached peoples.

3. The Office of Adventist Mission continue to:

    a. Use a people-group approach for measuring remaining mission challenges.

    b. Seek ways to ensure that Urban Centers of Influence focus on starting new groups of believers among the unreached.

    c. Explore a new funding structure that will prioritize church planting projects in the least reached people groups beginning with the largest and measured by language, population, Adventist to population ratio, and other criteria.

    d. Provide funding for starting new groups of believers among unreached majority populations (including post-Christian and secular populations in Europe).

4. The Office of Adventist Mission work with the Offices of Adventist Membership Services (AMS) and Archives, Statistics, and Research (ASTR) to track mission progress in:

    a. Unreached people groups of at least 100,000 people or more;

    b. Cities with a population of at least one million.

5. The Office of Adventist Mission work with AMS and Adventist World Radio (AWR) to:

    a. Create the Global Mission Strategy System by mapping current Seventh-day Adventist work around the world;

    b. Begin providing current unreached people group information to church leaders.

6. The General Conference use the Joshua Project and other core resources as sources for developing an Adventist database of unreached people groups in each division, union, and conference.

7. The General Conference, coordinated by Adventist Mission, create a technological and media think-tank to:

    a. Consider ways to use technology and media in unreached areas and among non-Christian people groups.

    b. Find ways to measure the impact of these activities in unreached areas.

8. All ministerial training programs at tertiary level to include at least one course on cross-cultural mission, and ministry to non-Christians.

9. Each division, in consultation with unions and fields, make specific strategic plans to reach the unreached peoples and cities in their respective territories. This plan would include:

    a. Human and financial resources;

    b. Plans for establishing new church groups and Urban Centers of Influence;

    c. Publishing (print and electronic) and integrated media (AWR, the Hope Channel, social media), education, comprehensive health ministry, Total Member Involvement (TMI), and all departments of the church.

    d. Working cooperatively with other divisions and entities when an unreached people group crosses territorial boundaries.

10. The Office of Adventist Mission support the Reach the World strategic plan by providing data for various General Conference initiatives and strategies including Mission to the Cities, Revival and Reformation, and TMI in their efforts to:

    a. Focus the mission action of the world church on the remaining mission challenge and unreached people groups and cities;

    b. Coordinate prayer resources for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in hearts of unreached people groups;

    c. Inspire church members to pray systematically for unreached people groups.

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chr 7:14 NKJV).

Notes

[1]Worshipping in a trade language is not adequate for the following reasons: (1) a person's first language is the heart language, the one a person was born into, and is the language that communicates at the very deepest level with individuals, and (2) often only the adults, especially those who work in the market place speak the trade language, while the women and children speak their first language in the home. If worship is conducted in the trade language it is difficult for whole families to worship together in meaningful ways.