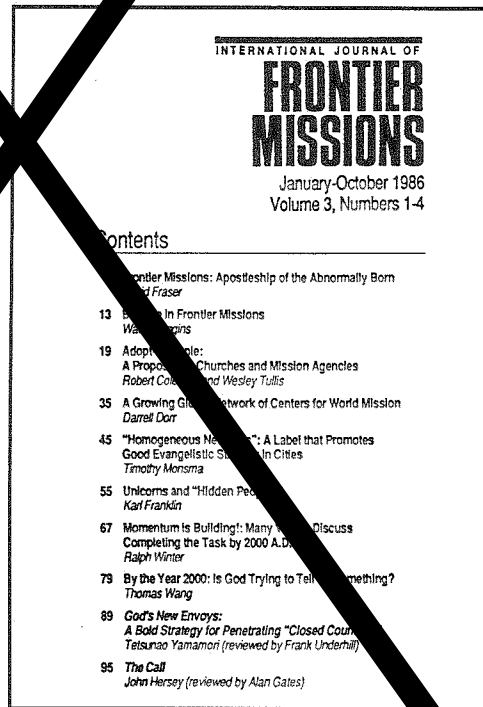


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Commentary: More Global Plans that have emerged in 1989

David B. Barrett

By October 1988, our research project embodied in the book *Seven hundred plans to evangelize the world* had unearthed, catalogued and described a total of 788 distinct plans or proposals to evangelize the world. But neither this book, nor the GCOWE 2000 Singapore Consultation it was written for, has stemmed the onrush of yet further new global plans. Throughout 1989 they have continued to emerge, at an average rate conservatively estimated at 50 a year, or one a week.

Each issue of this journal will contain at the end, as this issue does, a section that reproduces a few of the latest documents, plans, and proposals to emerge. This Commentary briefly assesses these latest developments.

The newest global plans

First, here below is a list of a handful of the latest plans for which we have received full or adequate documentation. These are arranged alphabetically by country of origin.

Country	Name of plan; Sponsoring body; Author/proposer; Description; Goal
Bangladesh.	"Shover Kashe Suchomacher." Rev. Swapon Bhowe, chairman of National Christian Fellowship of Bangladesh, Dhaka. Goal (in Bengali): "The Gospel to all (the world), with every group of people reached, by AD 2000."
Hungary.	"God's Word: Hope for All". United Bible Societies, Council Meeting, Budapest, September 1988. Goal (in the 3 UBS official languages English,

David Barrett has been an ordained missionary of Church Missionary Society since 1956. He is currently research consultant to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Virginia.

David B. Barrett
More global plans in 1989

- French, and Spanish): "We hereby accept responsibility, with God's help, to make accessible to each one of the world's young people--children, teenagers and young adults under 24--by the year 2000 specially prepared Scriptures in printed or other form, and translated in a manner they will readily understand." Their "Draft Action Plan" details who is responsible for what, where, and when in the implementation of this goal.
- India. *Pioneers-India*, Hyderabad. Rev. Samuel H. Paulson. Goal (in Telugu): "To establish a church in every village of the world by AD 2000, and to minister the Word of God in every hospital and nursing home by AD 2000."
- Netherlands. Open Doors International. J.B. Companjen. Goal (in Dutch): "To see a church functioning in all restricted-access countries, and a thriving church all over the Muslim bloc by AD 2000."
- Philippines. "*Manila Manifesto: Calling the whole church to take the whole gospel to the whole world*", promulgated at close of Lausanne II Congress on World Evangelization, Manila, 20 July 1989.
- Philippines. "*Global Prayer Strategy: United Prayer around the World, Unending Prayer until He comes*." Lausanne II Congress, Manila, launched 20 July 1989. Glenn Sheppard, LCWE Senior Associate for Prayer. Also called "Global Prayer Network"
- Philippines. "*Summary Report of the Unreached Peoples, Unreached Cities, Research, Information Sharing, and AD 2000 Tracks*." John D. Robb et alii. Lausanne II Congress, Manila, July 1989.
- Singapore. "*Great Commission Manifesto*" GCOWE 2000, 8 January 1989.
- Singapore. "*Anglican Congress on World Evangelization*", September 1990. Bishop Moses Tay. Goal (in Chinese and English): "To launch the Anglican Decade of World Evangelization, 1991-2000."
- USA. *Proposal for a Joint Worldwide Movement: A joint venture by the three Communions (Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant) and para-church organizations to reach the world for Jesus Christ.*

- USA. R.N. Meyers, 5 July 1989.
"*1990: a Year of Prayer, with a Covenant calling the worldwide Body of Christ... with a view to fulfilling the Great Commission by the year 2000.*" R. Bringham & N. Krupp.

Some nonglobal plans

Nonglobal plans are those targeted, not on the whole world, but on a smaller area. Here are 2 recent plans out of a never-ending succession of local, national, and regional plans.

1. "*A growing church in every village of Sri Lanka by 2000 AD.*" Ben Manickam, dean, Lanka Bible College, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
2. "*2000 by 2000: 2000 British people sold out to world evangelisation by the year 2000*". Rev. Roland Evans, Llanelli, Wales, UK.

Commentary

What are we to make of these newest additions to our basic listing of 788 global plans, 400 of which are still functioning today?

Firstly, note their wide geopolitical and geolinguistic spread. Plans continue to emerge from the First World (the West), the Second World (the Communist bloc), and the Third World (the Nonaligned world). This tiny selection includes plans written in several of the world's largest languages--Chinese, English, Spanish, French, Bengali, German, Telugu, Hungarian, Dutch.

Secondly, note the breathtaking boldness of their goals. The most startling here is the UBS's goal. The target population of this latest global plan to center on Bible distribution is enormous: by AD 2000, the "young persons" (all persons under 24 years old) to whom they promise individual access to a Scripture translation in a language each "readily understands" will total 48.4% of the world, which will be some 3,025,511,000 individuals. With only 11 years to go, these fully committed Great Commission Christians proclaim to the whole world: "We hereby accept responsibility..." This is ex-

actly the kind of bold commitment we all need to emulate.

Thirdly, note that concrete plans fleshing out the 1991-2000 Decade of Evangelization are now emerging. The forthcoming Anglican Congress in Singapore is a harbinger.

Fourthly, a negative note. The reader will observe that, exactly as in the past, most new plans continue to put themselves forward in their basic documentation as individual, standalone, do-it-alone plans. They do not refer to, or even mention, the 400 or so other current global plans. Thus the lengthy "Manila Manifesto", despite its 7,700 words, does not mention any other such plan or proposal, nor even the existence of the 400. Neither does Robb's "Summary Report". Neither do any of the other plans listed above. *Of course*, widespread internal links exist and most plan sponsors today know about the existence of many others (Robb's article in this issue of the Journal proves this). But my point remains: *Any such linkages and awarenesses are not apparent from the published plans themselves.* To the outside observer or reader, a new plan which mentions no other plans is presenting itself as a standalone plan.

This is not necessarily culpable: I am simply stating it as one of the stunning, mind-boggling aspects of this situation which we have to comprehend. The Rev. Robert Meyers, a Presbyterian, whose massive printed *Proposal for a Joint Worldwide Movement* (see our "Documentation" section) was circulated worldwide in July 1989, tells me that he thought his plan was the only such plan in the world until a few weeks ago. Incidentally, the numerous appreciative replies he is getting from bishops, archbishops, cardinals, and other leaders have taken me by surprise. It goes to show that we need everybody, every initiative, and every type of approach, if we are to arouse the Great Commission world.

In the next issue of this *Journal*, we will document and evaluate a range of secular parallels (AD 2000 plans with secular goals proposed by major secular organizations). We will then come up with a startling new proposal that should have major impact on the Christian situation.

~~Documentation:
Plans
and
Proposals~~