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Richard Van Houten, Editor,

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William McElwee Miller, 416 pages, paperback

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## Unreached Peoples Track Report from Lausanne II

John Robb and Patrick Johnstone

*If you and your organization would like to comment upon the goals outlined in this report, please contact John Robb and Patrick Johnstone through MARC, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016. USA. They would be happy to include you and your organization in a networking directory presently being assembled.*

**D**eeper unity of heart and sharper clarity of vision. These were hallmarks of our time together at Lausanne II. During this track approximately 150-200 Christian leaders from a wide diversity of countries and organizations considered the unreached peoples of our world and how we might more effectively collaborate to reach them.

Presentations by Patrick Johnstone, Ralph Winter and Luis Bush demonstrated that we may be far closer to accomplishing the Great Commission goal of making disciples of *all peoples* than once thought. The number of non-Christians per "Great Commission Christian" (a believer who takes the Great Commission seriously) has steadily dropped from 360:1 in AD 100 to 7:1 today. At the same time, the number of "Great Commission Christian Congregations" per unreached people group has multiplied until there are now an estimated 416 such committed congregations for every remaining unreached group.

Provided the force for evangelism can be effectively coordinated and deployed, it should be possible, with God's help, to see a viable church planting movement come into being, initially in each of the 2000 already catalogued unreached macro-peoples and eventually in the possibly 12,000 unreached mini-peoples (or people groups) within these larger peoples. It was recognized, however, that along with the overarching themes

*John Robb and Patrick Johnstone have been working on strategies for reaching the unreached peoples for many years. Both have authored several books and publications including Johnstone's Operation World.*

## John Robb and Patrick Johnstone Unreached Peoples Track Report

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of the Congress, there must be a sense of *urgency, unity* and willingness to *sacrifice* if real cooperation among mission agencies and denominations is to occur.

The international formation of interdenominational and interagency networks (or task forces) focussed *around particular ministries* and *around specific peoples and people groups* was emphasized as a means to operationalize global goals for Great Commission cooperation. The advantages of the flexible, fluid and inexpensive network model, in which agencies and individuals work together transorganizationally as equals on the basis of shared values and common goals, were highlighted as over against hierarchical, bureaucratic structures which hinder true cooperation. It was concluded that there is a need for thousands of such cooperative ministry networks, tying together prayer, research, mobilization, development work, media ministries and pioneer church planting in common efforts to reach particular people groups.

Inspiring models of in-country unreached peoples research surveys from Ghana and Nigeria were shared. Striking initiatives to coordinate radio broadcasting, network agencies and leaders to evangelize the unreached peoples of Kenya and bring the gospel to the Zhuang ethnic minority of China were also presented.

Ten missions leaders imparted lessons forged in the furnace of actually reaching people groups, all the way from the high Himalayas to the streets of Amsterdam. These living case studies by practitioners in the field, wedded as they were to the discussions of global research and strategy, gave us an excellent blend of macro and micro, theory and practice.

Most encouraging was the consensus our track came to on plans and goals to be suggested for adoption by the Lausanne movement. The leaders of four other tracks (Unreached Cities, Research, Information Sharing and AD 2000) also joined us in affirming the seven overarching objectives in the following report.

Our final combined appeal calls upon "all Christians everywhere to play their part in reaching these unreached peoples as their most urgent priority from now to AD 2000 and beyond

so that there will be a church for every people and the gospel for every person before he comes."

### Unreached Peoples Track Summary

We want to share how God has been meeting with us, and giving us an unusual degree of unity of heart and clarity of vision in understanding how the unreached peoples can be reached. We believe that in the power of the Spirit it is an achievable task and that we may be far closer to achieving this goal than we had realized. God's word also assures us that "This Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached as a witness to all peoples" before the end comes. There is a definiteness in our Lord's words. It is going to happen. We have the privilege of working together with Him for its accomplishment.

We propose the following global goals as realistic and attainable. We ask each of you to join us in affirming that with God's enabling, we in the Lausanne Movement will:

1. Work to see a church planting missionary movement established in every unreached people by the year 2000. This can best be achieved through cooperative task force focussing on each one.
2. Will seek to integrate all supportive ministries such as Bible translation, radio and literature as fully as possible into these task forces.
3. Seek to mobilize a global prayer and information network for each unreached people and city with major non-Christian population.
4. Give a comprehensive status report to describe the segments of the world's population in understandable terms so that everyone can be inspired to reach them.
5. Provide a listing of all the known peoples of the world as soon as possible, clearly defining those that are still unreached. This will initially include 2000 unreached peoples already catalogued. Further research may reveal as many as 12,000 unreached people groups within

- the larger peoples.
6. Provide a listing for the 300 or more megacities of the world with priority given to those with major non-Christian populations.
  7. Facilitate the establishment of research and information functions in every region and country where possible to serve the body of Christ in conduction national surveys of all areas, peoples, and cities. This information can then be used to mobilize the Church nationally and worldwide.

We therefore call upon all Christians everywhere to play their part in reaching these unreached peoples as their most urgent priority from now to AD 2000 and beyond, so that there will be a church for every people and the gospel for every person before He comes!

## World Evangelization by A.D. 2000: Summating Certain Barriers

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David Hesselgrave

*This paper was prepared for the EFMA Retreat, Sept. 25-28, 1989 held in Glen Eyrie, Colorado. We welcome his latest reflections on the year 2000.*

**M**y presuppositions are: (1) The world will be evangelized in accordance with God's definition and plan--both of which might be quite different from ours (Mt. 24:14); (2) World evangelization could be accomplished by the year 2000 or even before; (3) On the basis of the availability of human, financial and technological resources we can say that the present opportunity to evangelize the world is unprecedented; and, (4) Given the significance of a year in which we move into a new millennium, the appeal that goal-setting has for Americans especially, and the publicity that has already been given to the concept, the linkage of world evangelization and the year 2000 will continue for the next few years at least (D.V.).

My perspective should also be made clear. My stance as a premillennarian conservative evangelical will be apparent. My experiences as rural and inner-city pastor in the States, as postwar missionary in Japan, and as a missiologist obviously will have a bearing on what I say. But even as a missiologist, I must admit to a feeling of being overwhelmed by the avalanche of methodologies and statistics, seminars and consultations, charts and diagrams, books and articles, megaplans and gigaplans and appeals and exhortations that have converged on the world evangelization theme in recent days. I freely admit that I cannot compete with the imagination, erudition, and

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