

From the Guest Editor

Advancing Strategies of Closure

Dear Reader,

In late October in Singapore a gathering focused on advancing strategies of closure among all unreached people groups will take place. Where did this idea come from? What is the purpose of the meeting? What good could come out of it?

Background

At the gathering of the Great Commission Roundtable last spring in Malaysia, those in the Unreached Peoples track called for a gathering focused on what is left to be done among those without a church movement in their culture. That call was joined by representatives from the Global Network of Centers for World Mission, Interdev, Joshua Project II, and later others.

Recognizing the need to rally energy to bring the idea to reality, discussions were begun for the meeting to be held in Singapore. Tim Lewis (Frontiers), Chong Kim (Korean American Center for World Mission) and I are the comprise the administrative committee.

Ethos

The focus of the meeting will be the Unreached People groups. These are defined as people groups within which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians able to evangelize this people group.

Key to this gathering will be the presentation, discussion and outcomes that will help provide strategies to see these peoples reached with a church movement. The idea of closure emphasizes finishing this task among all peoples parallel with what Jesus spoke about in Matthew 16:18, and which is reflected in Paul's ministry in Romans 15:19b-21, and in Revelation 5:9, 7:9. Closure does not mean that no other work needs to be accom-

plished in God's purposes, but that fellowships of believing followers of Christ have been established.

Participants

Three major groups will be represented at the consultation.

Mission Executives

Representatives at the leadership level from as many mission agencies as possible that are focused on one of the tracks (listed below).

Macro-thinking field practitioners

These are workers who are at the practical, field level *and* who are thinking broadly about how to see a movement happen among their whole people and beyond.

These are—in both cases—people who are willing and able to think and contribute “out-of-the-box.”

Representatives of Center for World Mission or regional mobilizers

A small number of people who are directly involved in the Global Network of Centers for World Mission will also attend and have their own track. These are people who are working nationally or regionally to foster frontier missions in their area.

Purpose

The gathering will be a working consultation on advancing strategies of closure among all unreached people groups.

Foundational to the event will be pre- and post-consultation reporting on (1) where we are in this task; (2) where the peoples are that have the greatest need; (3) what's been done to reach them; as well as (4) what needs to be done. Some of the details in other articles in this journal give examples of further research, perspectives and possible outcomes.

The gathering will be organized around tracks and megaspheres.

These are: Muslim, Hindu (non-dalit or “popular” Hindu), Buddhist, and Tribal. There will be “cross” track groups as well, such as Nomads, Researchers, and Global Centers for World Mission.

As the track leaders plan and meet at the consultation, they are considering to how to best follow up the meeting and make its long term impact as deep and wide as possible. These pre-gatherings will help to set the tone for the whole meeting as well as any on-going efforts.

While each track will pursue their own outcomes, general initial outcomes include:

- a. Advance in strategic thinking
- b. Continuing track or tracks, perhaps in the megaspheres or perhaps a global Unreached Peoples mission exec network
- c. Revitalized Centers for World Mission network
- d. Clearer understanding of the use of data in strategy
- e. More to be developed...

We look forward to report more in this and other forums.

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