**GLOBAL MISSION STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS**

**4 MAY 2018**

**PRESENTATIVE LIST**

The presentative list is attached to this minute

**WELCOME**

Janlu welcomes everyone and thank them for their time and effort to join us at the meeting. He constituted the agenda by informing the attendees that those who accepted the invitation earlier, were asked to list current mission trends prior to the meeting. The agenda was drawn up around these common topics and divided into two major subjects : Major Trends and Challenges.

**Goals**

The meeting had two goals:

* Taking a fresh look at current global mission trends;
* Finding common ground to work together

**Introduction**

Each attendee was given the opportunity to briefly introduce themselves in order to encourage networking among the leaders.

**Definition of Missions**

As a first port of call, the meeting was requested to define “Missions”. The following comments were offered as a definition:

* A missionary is someone being sent across culture and religion barriers.
* Missions is towards another people group and across a border (political, religious, cultural)
* It is about reaching the lost –joining God in His mission to the ‘lostness’ of man
* Mission is not an exclusive calling of a few people but it also includes helping every believer to understand that they need to reach the lost. It is a workplace/every situation calling for everyone.
* Mission is also discipleship, but we the need to focus further than our home town. Everybody has a duty to work here and ‘there’.
* It is not only evangelism but establishing vibrant communities among the least reach – life producing life.
* It has two major components : being missional – an intent to cross barriers out of your comfort zone and realised that one is being sent with a purpose – There must be an intentionality in crossing borders..
* Although every believer has a calling to engage others a missionary is someone who is sent, willing to lay down his life in a full time devotion.

**MAJOR TRENDS**

1. **Globalisation**

Accessibly and availability of job opportunities have given rise to a global migrant work force entering countries that has previously been unavailable. Many South Africans are already working abroad, but they are not intentional in their spreading their faith.

Andre explains the Scatter Global initiative that is slowly gaining momentum. <https://www.scatterglobal.com/>. Scatter is an initiative that assists migrants to work across borders with purpose and intent. This ministry is working in partnership with an international Talent Company which is a personal agency placing professionals among the least reached. Andrew Scott has written a book : “Scatter – Go therefore and take your job with you” ; Moody Publishers : 2016 (ISBN-13: 978-0-8024-1290-4) This book is available at the OM bookstore with Andre vd Bergh for further information and a great tool to guide and direct potential job seekers.

1. **Media**

Media includes the internet, social media platform, broadcasters like SAT 7, Transworld Radio etc. Media is a great tool that can be harnessed to empower every believer with a smart phone and general access to the internet to reach the lost anywhere in the world.

Internet surfers are the greatest “people group” in the world.

* Media offers great advantages in that one can access it from anywhere in the world and reach people anywhere in the world. It is relatively inexpensive and is time friendly. Any person can use internet as a tool to reach out. It also has the ability to reach very remote places. According to <https://www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm> there are currently an estimated 4 Billion people on internet. The Saudi’s has the fastest growing social media in the world.
* The Jesus film is available in 1000 languages and there are more languages with available on the free application. <https://www.jesusfilm.org/app.html>

It was commented that we need to be strategic on social media and focus our efforts on building relationships. In Tunisia there is a Q&A website where information is shared. Caution is that we need both solid information and discipleship.

**3. Role of Indigenous Churches**

Long stay visas are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain worldwide unless you can enter with a work visa. The latter is subjected to scrutiny and lack of time and freedom. There is now a movement to empower near-culture believers to impact unengaged people groups in their vicinity.

Hany informed the meeting about the great and significant rift between Christian Background Believers (CBB) and the fast growing faith community of the Muslim Background Believers (MBB). There is a great divide and disconnection between the two groups fuelled by years of distrust and prejudice. This is prohibiting the expansion of the work. He cautioned the meeting to have patience with the CBB’s and to be focussed and strategic. We need wisdom to challenge the CBB’s to reach out to the Muslims and MBB’s who really needs discipleship. The same prejudice among believers is also true on our doorstep. We need to find ways to mobilise Christians to move past their deep ingrained prejudice.

1. **Movements and Networking**

There is a growing global tendency towards networking relationships, partnerships and discipleship movements instead of individual or organisational efforts. Corporate responsibility is busy trumping individual calling. There is much less structure and much more corporate understanding and support for common interests. Strategies and planning is much more fluid and reliant on the leading of the Holy Spirit. A distinct characteristic of a movement lies in it’s DNA – the way you do something that is the way you do everything. Derick informed the meeting of a very resourceful internet site with regards to movements.

<https://www.acceleratetraining.org/index.php/resources>

The Discovery Bible Study method is currently proving to be a very effective tool to train MBBs to reach out to others. It also helps to disciple churches for missions in that it is equipping churches to reach their own peers outside the faith community. The idea is to generate movements within our own countries to reach other countries. This tool is also honed to start people movements in its essence within communities since it sparks ‘organic’ growth among people groups with their own culture.

**5. Training**

There has been a shift in the way training is done. Currently it is focussed on relations rather than formal schooling. Schooling is good and have a place, but it is mentoring and intentional discipleship that promotes longevity in missions. Discipleship has become a lifestyle and being sent (calling, vision and purpose) has become more important than who you are working with (ministry or the tool). The upside of this shift is that competition among organisations is diminishing. It has become a question of specialisation. Mentored teams are the spawning ground for leadership development and real training.

Augustine stated : “Exposure cultivates authority”

1. **Short Term Outreaches and Long stay options..**

Obtaining long-term visas are becoming increasingly difficult for resident traditional missionaries all over the world. New entry strategies must be found like using vocation and skills as a means to impact communities. The focus is shifting towards indigenous believers stepping up to the plate to evangelise their own communities and near culture people. There has been a decline in the missionary force from the West but a clear shift towards intentional missions. On the other hand there has been a rise of interest from the 2/3 world countries. Resourcing is, however a huge challenge from developing economies.

Short Term outreaches have provided exposure and stimulated interest, but it is very expensive and exclusive. It has also become more dependent on established relationships on the field to ensure acceptance and impact.

55 % of the world’s population are urbanised and are being targeted by the mission effort. The folks in the rural areas are largely unreached because the cities provide greater comfort to the missionaries. We need the cities to reach the rural areas. A strong argument was made that traditional mission work is irreplaceable as it offers living relationships and discipleships.

The way you access the people will change but the DNA stays the same. Although access ministry gives you the long term opportunity to impact lives, only love and prayer wins the day. There is a pressing need to access unengaged groups with a clear goal, strategy in which the need is contextualised and the evangelistic tools are cultural sensitive and appropriate. New entry strategies are being used with great effect like the Business as mission and Oral learning initiatives. A bridge needs to be built between the chosen tool and other media options that can enhance the effectivity of evangelism.

1. **Displacement of refugees.**

There is a huge opportunity to spread the gospel among the growing number of political and economic refugees worldwide. The report from the missionaries on the ground is that 99 % want to hear about God.

We should take serious notice of the initiatives from the East like the “Back to Jerusalem” movement run by the Chinese believers. They are starting businesses alll over the Middle-east and they are radical in evangelism. The Lord is using them with great effect. There is a lot of prejudice against Westerners but the Asians and Africans are more acceptable.

**CHALLENGES**

Time has run out for the meeting to address the challenges in depth. Many of the challenges were discussed during the meeting. Two has been singled out:

1. **Administration**

The greatest challenge is to find sustainable ways to ensure longer term visas that is becoming increasingly difficult and expensive. In South Africa the government is adding more rules and regulations to NGO’s, forcing changes in the way organisations used to operate.

1. **Finances**

The folks who have the finances hold on to their finances. It is estimated that Chine and Indonesia will soon overtake the US as economical beach masters. The West needs to partner with 2/3 work force, especially in providing resources and skills.

Another shift is that missionaries need to be trained to be become self-sustainable. Old traditional models need to change because funding structures are changing. Giving of money is only a part of supporting. What is needed is partnering relationships where skills and other resources are shared. Business for missions is aimed at helping folks to continue ministry but also empower others to be self-sustainable, creating functional and vibrant communities.

Evangelism with skills is the way forward addressing the felt need on the ground.

**NEXT STEPS**

The meeting aimed at networking all participants towards the common goal of facing an ever changing arena in the world, making the necessary adjustments in current strategies and linking up with expertise in partnership with each other.

On request of the meeting, an attendance list will be added to this minute.

The organiser thanked all the participants for their valuable contributions, time and effort.

The meeting was adjourned at 11h45.