



Shalom Outreach, Inc.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

On Friday, September 30, 2011, a group of 35 people met at Bethel Gospel Assembly in Harlem, NY for an encounter that we termed Global Impact Strategy Meeting (GISM). This meeting represented a continued dialogue of discussions that took place Mar 28, 2011 in Silver Spring, MD. As aforementioned, this strategic planning session is designed to accomplish three objectives:

1. To facilitate a discourse which examines both current and historical hindrances to the involvement of the African American Church (AfAm) in global missions:
2. To identify ways in which those factors may be strategically addressed; and,
3. To formulate a concrete plan to execute targeted efforts addressing the factors identified.

Below you will find a synopsis of the presentations and subsequent discussion items that were presented.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

Discussion Topics:

- “Overcoming Past Hindrances with Effective Mobilization Strategies” by Dr. Peggy Rayman
- Implementing a type of “Operation Spirit Thunder (OST)” with Global Implications by Bishop Carlton Brown
- Implementing “Concerts of Prayer” by Pastor Gary Frost
- “Who is Doing What, When, and Where?” by Dr. Jim Sutherland

## **OVERCOMING PAST HINDRANCES**

Dr. Rayman shared the importance of not operating on our cultural autopilot. Instead, we should include proper discipline and education as we begin to expand our “Mission”. We must remember that anywhere the Kingdom of God is not “IS” our target for missions. A good mission propels the global church and enables us to push for sound kingdom dynamics, multiple disciples, and kingdom leaders who understand their role in it.

- When asked “Have we confronted taking Christ over Culture?” the group responded “NO”. Comments ranged from problems cited to resolutions. We are bound by tradition and caught up in the American dream and the desire for new buildings. We have developed a victim mentality and have an inclusive Kingdom approach. But we



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must expose it, explore ways to partner with other ethnic groups, and take the congregation to the world!

- Good mission education will propel the global work of the church as it teaches God's plan for redemption and how to become fishers of men. It will help us to understand our environment, to know our responsibility, and to be exposed to other missionaries. We must develop a lifestyle with creative strategies and activities in evangelism from the education learned. The Word of God exposes and penetrates sin.
- In order to achieve global impact within the African American church, we resolved to educate, incorporate, and engage. We should teach God's plan of redemption which affords everyone the opportunity to be educated and engaged in missions. We will begin to pray more informed, heartfelt prayers and, thus, incorporate prayer and worship into our daily lives.

### **OPERATION SPIRITUAL THUNDER GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS**

Bishop Carlton Brown showed a video of their "Victory Shout" from Operation Spiritual Thunder (OST). OST is held twice a year (summer and fall) and is focused on getting souls into the Kingdom of God rather than on church membership. This past summer Bethel partnered with other local churches and was able to cover 100 corners in Harlem, NY.

- When asked "Will our churches embrace OST?" you responded with a twofold answer "Yes and No". The small group tables shared comments that similar things are happening but more churches should be linked with these opportunities. This event creates ownership and change within the local communities.
- Potential challenges that churches will encounter when implementing this program are follow-up, moving from event evangelism to discipleship, fear of sharing their personal testimony, inability for leaders to collaborate with other leaders, and difficulty with overhead cost for the magnitude of this event.
- Engaging the young adult ministry involves creative methods. Give them something to do and allow them to apply it. We must allow them to be a part of the decision making process which, in turn, gives them ownership of the plan. Once they have been reached, churches should consider methods to keep them involved.

### **CONCERTS OF PRAYER**

Pastor Gary Frost expressed understanding the principles of John 13-17 with a specific emphasis on John 15:1-8. He urged us to communicate with God more often which allows us to be in one accord and have a more purposeful relationship with Him. He revealed personal experiences where he saw God spiritually do what they could not accomplish politically, as it relates to the murder rate in an Ohio inner-city community. Visual unity turns into a concert of prayer. We must be desperate enough to put a demand on God. In



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order to engage this idea of “concert of prayer”, we should find men and women who are like minded to pray with us. We MUST be persistent in prayer!

- When asked “Are we really a praying church?” responses were both “Yes” and “No”. Prayer seemed underutilized and not focused on the proper issues. There are a variety of ways to pray. Faith must be linked with prayer. We are a church that prays but we aren’t a praying church. Consistency is needed and relationship with God is necessary so that we know His voice. Sometimes, from the lack of desperation, we are unable to tap in to the basis of our needs, which should not be self-centered.
- Are our prayer groups isolated from the rest of the congregation? If yes, how do we overcome this? Small group comments were “Yes”. We overcome by teaching through small groups, pastors leading the charge through sermons, teachings, discipleship, and prayer events. It is everyone’s responsibility to pray.
- Prayer can be a weapon as we embrace the commission, keep it sharpened and handy, and pray the Word of God—as He watches over His Word to perform it. We can incorporate prayer walks and conference calls. We should teach our children to pray through our example and of others as through the acronym **B.L.E.S.S.** (**B**ody-physical healing, **L**abor-those laboring with you, **E**motions-emotionally whole, **S**ocial-improved social interaction, **S**piritual-increase spiritual growth). A testimony from Pastor Heyward was shared on his encounter with the power of prayer through his local church, and how “he is still here (literally) because of prayer”. We must be strategic in our prayers. Pray specifically and expect God to respond.

## WHO IS DOING WHAT, WHEN, & WHERE?

Dr. Jim Sutherland discusses Reconciliation Ministry Network, Incorporated (RMNi). It is an inner city ministries database created to share who is doing what and where. Dr. Sutherland also mentioned his trip to Sudan March 2012 and the availability of his online presentation. He has teaching resources online for others to utilize and tailor to the needs of their ministry. Young independent African American (AfAm) churches seem to be more involved in missions than older more established AfAm churches. Dr. Sutherland mentions survival/security mentality of African Americans and the need to promote “His” Kingdom and not “our” kingdom. We must begin to pioneer other people groups, integrate what we are doing, and avoid duplication.

- This database can best reflect the African American church in missions through better ways of doing things, provide resources and contacts, identify AfAm traditions, and define the AfAm church.
- We can utilize this tool to engage the lay members in identifying mission opportunities and unreached places, to access the social media, and to use as curriculum for teaching.



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## THE PATH FORWARD

Our Executive Director recommended the importance of having these types of meetings. As we move forward, we should keep Acts 1:8 in mind. We must setup S.M.A.R.T. (See below.) goals that are both executable and attainable. Lastly, we must remember that we are either praying preventatively or correctively, for self. When we begin to pray for His will to be done, we will realize the value of our weapon of PRAYER.

SMART goal setting is a process by which you can evaluate the current situation and develop strategies to move forward. The process involves Five (5) steps as outlined in the following diagram.

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SMART Goal Setting in 5 Easy Steps		
Step	Mnemonic	Description
1	S pecific	Exactly what is it you want to achieve in your business and to what extent? A good objective statement or goal should answer the question "which, what, who, where, when, why"?
2	M easurable	You need to be able to track the progress and measure the outcome. A good objective statement should answer the question "how much or how many"?
3	A ction oriented	Say what you are going to do. A good objective statement should <b>describe a result</b> .
4	R ealistic & Relevant	The objective should be <b>challenging</b> but <b>realistic</b> and also <b>relevant</b> to your business. Objectives may appear optimistic initially, but as you develop strategies to achieve them they become realistic.
5	T ime based	Objectives should include a time limit. A good objective statement should include "By when" do you want to achieve your result?

<sup>1</sup>The image was taken from: [www.network-marketing-mlm-success-system.com/smart-goal-setting.html](http://www.network-marketing-mlm-success-system.com/smart-goal-setting.html).