

Reconciliation Report

Global Mission Trends Pt. II

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*Researching, Teaching,
Mobilizing, for the Name—
Serving Primarily the African
American Church*

Inside this issue:

Praise & Prayer Points	2
Global Trends II	2

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WebWatch:

- [Http://postcalc.usps.gov/](http://postcalc.usps.gov/) Domestic postage calculator
- Free (really) photos & Clipart for MS Office users: <http://dgl.microsoft.com/> (Current photos are from this site.)
- Big Zoo.com Long distance for 3.9¢ <http://www.bigzoo.com/>
- ACMC—Local church missions source: <http://www.acmc.org/>

GIVING IS INADEQUATE

- Globally, Christians gave 1.8% of income to Christian causes, and of this only .1% goes to global mission, slightly up from 1.7% and .09% in 1997 (Barrett, "Annual Statistical Table on Global Mission: 1997," & 2001, *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, January 1998, January 2001).
- "Americans remain the most generous people on earth," according to George Barna, but all giving by *born again* Christians declined 16% in 2000 ("Churches Lose Financial Ground in 2000" 6/5/01, Barna Research Online). Only 12% of born again Christians actually tithe (although 32% reported tithing—Barna, 6/5/01). An estimated 9% of American giving went to parachurch groups. Giving by all American "Christians" has hovered around 2.5% of income.
- God commands the "rich" to be "generous" (1 Tim. 6:17-18, NIV). The richest 9% of the world make \$10,000/year. By this standard, am I rich?



GLOBAL INFORMATION CULTURE

- "The world's dominant activity is rapidly becoming the deepening and spreading of information and knowledge." Daily there are 100,000 new Christian computer users and 68,500 gain Web access (David Barrett, George Kurian, Todd Johnson, "The Status of Christianity and Religions in the Modern World," *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 2nd ed., p. 1:5; p. 2:535). End times, yes (cf. Dan. 12:4b)
- 85% of non-Christian adults in America access the Web, and Barna states "By the end of the decade we will have in excess of ten percent of our population who rely upon the Internet for their entire spiritual experience." ("More Americans are Seeking Net-Based Faith Experiences" 5/21/01, Barna Research Online). More Black and Hispanics trust the Web than do Whites in the US (Barna, 5/21/01). Internet presence implications are obvious.

THE HARVEST IS STILL GREAT

- **The locations of greatest harvest shift.** These fields hopscotch the planet. Currently the greatest reaping seems to be in Africa,



where approximately 24,500 come to know Christ each day, followed by Latin America (21,000), and Asia (19,400) [David Barrett, George Kurian, Todd Johnson, "The Status of Christianity and Religions in the Modern World," *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 2nd ed., p. 1:3]. Should we just followed the ripe fruit? How did those fields become ripe? Missionaries, sometimes over centuries, sowed and watered, with tears, and now comes the harvest (1 Cor. 3:6-7). Supporting only mission to the receptive is strategically and historically myopic. The Sudan was first reached in the sixth century (LaTourette, *A History of Christianity*, Vol. 1:272). Catholics converted a Congolese king near the end of the 1400s (LaTourette, 2:927). Yet now is the harvest. We need also to fund pioneering work among the unreached, who will one day, we trust, call for reapers.



- **The Protestant harvest force** has shifted from being largely North American to being predominately non-Western (Ralph Winter & Bruce Koch, "Finishing the Task The Unreached Peoples Challenge," *Perspectives*, 3rd ed., p. 509). For example, since 1987 Latin Americans have fielded over 4,000 intercultural missionaries, and the India Mission Agency has 12,000 missionaries (Ralph Winter, "World Mission Survey," *Perspectives* 3rd ed., p. 356, 362.) A multicultural mission force better reflects the desired outcome of converts from every tribe and tongue and ethnic unit.
- **The unreached** constitute 27% of the world—1,629,000,000 people. On average, through 2025, 252,000 need to be evangelized every day, only 87,000 are currently evangelized globally (From the *World Christian Encyclopedia*, David Barrett, George Kurian, Todd Johnson, Eds. 2001, ISBN:0195079639, p. 2: 538). As noted previously 34.3 million die without Christ annually, and of these 13.2 are unevangelized (From the *World Christian Encyclopedia*, David Barrett, George Kurian, Todd Johnson, Eds. 2001, ISBN:0195079639, p. 1:8). Methods aside (the best is one that you're using), evangelism (the Great Commission) is not the responsibility of the paid professional missionary. And there aren't enough of them anyway. The colonels can't win the war, it's the infantry.



Jim Sutherland



- Barrett and Kurian note a tragic irony: a billion people will have no contact with Christians throughout their lives, while another billion Christians will have no contact with non-Christians throughout their lives (*World Christian Encyclopedia*, 1:8). With the ease and plethora of short-term mission opportunities, and with the influx of immigrants, and the recourse of prayer, why this tragedy?

Prayer and Praise Points:



- ↑ God blessed financial workshops at Cedine and a sermon. Financial counseling doubled last month.
- ↑ We have excellent speakers for the UMN, but attendance is still down. Please pray for reconciliation among white and black pastors and direction for UMN.
- ↑ Ethan earned his Private Pilot license!! He is working in TX this

- summer.
- ↑ Pray for the Board members of God's choice.
- ↑ We're grateful for no personal injuries when Judi bagged a moose with her Mom's Chevy in New Hampshire.
- ↑ For new Christians and disciples at McCallie Homes. We have great co-workers.
- ↑ Wisdom to develop excellent PowerPoint

- presentations—one to promote world missions in Black churches.
- ↑ Hattie Riley's husband must improve in health for her to return to Uganda. We have 5 going presently.
- ↑ Susanna thrives as Naturalist at Pickett State Park.
- ↑ For wider service and greater wisdom in communication.