

Floor Committee #15: Board for World Missions and Joint Mission Council

Subject: Board for World Missions and Joint Mission Council

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp. 123-134

Report No. 01

This world is gripped by the shadows of death and sin as Satan actively seeks to keep souls enslaved. Board for World Missions advances the gospel into cultures other than our own to bring the freedom and healing of Jesus to souls trapped in this darkness. Joint Mission Council partners with World Missions and Home Missions where home and world opportunities intersect.

This cross-cultural work is challenging physically, emotionally, and spiritually for missionaries and support staff. Missionaries sacrifice much even as they enjoy unique privileges of sharing Jesus with others. While there are setbacks and dangers in every effort, behind each statistic shared are precious and priceless souls bought by the blood of Jesus. Their eternity has been changed because of what Jesus did for them, shared by human beings we send in our place.

Most of their stories we will not know until we meet them in heaven. Yet it is good and proper for us to recognize, give thanks and pray for, and tell everyone the good news of faithful training and mentoring of leaders in the mission fields located in Latin America, Asia-Oceania, Africa, Native America, and Europe. This has led to the tremendous growth of souls connected to the life-saving message of the gospel.

For example:

- The strategy of multiplication ministry in the training and mentoring of national leaders who will carry out the gospel ministry.
- Sixty pastors have graduated from the seminary in Vietnam and are ministering to more than 165,000 in the Hmong Evangelical Lutheran Church.
- Thirty-seven new church groups located throughout Latin America who are working toward fellowship with our sister church, *Iglesia Cristo WELS Internacional*.
- Support of 8,000 souls located in a country that is less than 1 percent Christian.

Actions we encourage:

- We fully endorse the 10-year goals that have been proposed by World Missions and ask for your support and prayers as they carry out this work.
- We urge everyone to make use of Mission Journeys to place them in mission fields and evangelism efforts outside of their own communities.

- We urge everyone to regularly make use of the mission advancement resources at **wels.net/missions** to publicize all these blessings with your congregation in partnership with your church leaders.

Thanks we give:

- For many years of faithful service on the Joint Mission Council: Paul Prange as chair of the Joint Mission Council and Sean Young as director of mission operations.
- For all the blessings God gave our Asia-Oceania Team through Steve Witte, the head of the Asia-Oceania Team, as we keep his family in our prayers as they mourn his passing.
- For the work of Neil Birkholz overseeing the diaspora ministry.
- For Skip Goetzinger and his team at the Pastoral Studies Institute.
- For the mission advancement team for communicating the efforts of World Missions to our synod.
- For Pastor Makisimu Musa of the Obadiah Lutheran Synod in Uganda attending our convention
- For the work of Bishop Kaaya of the African Mission Evangelical Church in Tanzania to work towards fellowship with WELS and for Bishop Judah who will continue this work.

Pastor Paul Workentine, chairman

Teacher David Dodge, secretary