

Strategy Groups

Most of the work accomplished at Ethn06 was done in strategy groups held over 9 hours during the second and third days. The 400 participants divided themselves into four strategy groups. Here are the results.

The Crisis Response Strategy Group

The Ethn FCRN met over 3 days at Ethn06 to discuss issues related to crisis/disaster response and how we can work together for a cohesive response in such circumstances in the future. Discussed at length were issues related to our experiences and lessons learnt in the past 2-3 years as a result of the relief work done in the tsunami areas and the Kashmir earthquake. Also discussed at length was the relationship between crisis response and the longterm goal of church-planting movement amongst Unreached Peoples. Various resources in terms of relief work, providing care to care givers, etc. were also shared, and we realised the huge amount of resources already available. Just within the group present, we saw and sense the huge potential for greater effectiveness, if we just worked together. Thus, consensus of the group was a firm 'yes, we need to develop this network'.

A number of steps are being planned, as we move forward:

- (i) a core team of facilitators will provide leadership to this network;
- (ii) a mailing list will be built, to include those who should be included but were not there in Ethn06. This mailing list is slowly taking shape, with close to 50 leaders already connected to FCRN;
- (iii) resources, updates, etc. will be put out on a website. This is now being developed;
- (iv) contact will be made with various UPG networks and national Missions Bodies to prepare a core team of crisis-respond-

ers in different parts of the world who will be part of the FCRN first-responders;

(v) over the next 2 years, training these groups (core team of crisis-responders) will be one of FCRN primary tasks.

One of the key things that came out of Ethn06 was the "response & communication mechanism". Whilst this will vary depending on the circumstances, a general response time frame of 72 hours was agreed upon, i.e. time in which FCRN will have someone on the ground to coordinate the core team. This core team will make arrangements as to logistics (receiving, warehousing and distribution of supplies), volunteers (medical, counsellors, etc.), communication system (FM transmission covering a radius of 30 miles), and most crucially, have a base set up for networking the various Christian NGOs coming to assist.

Two important points should be made. First, whilst CPM is our goal, FCRN is not about launching CPMs—we are focused on providing crisis/disaster relief with excellence and handing over the CPM part for local/near-local believers. Second, whilst we work with various NGOs, and churches, our central strategy involves empowering local Believers. They are the ones who are going to be there for the long term.

The Crisis Response Strategy Group was facilitated by Beram Kumar, Betsy Brown, and Kay Hiramine.

The Harvest Linked Prayer Strategy Group

At Ethn, an unprecedented year-long prayer and harvest effort was launched to see strategic harvest outreaches to the least-reached in each region of the world (12 regions in all) for the 90 days during and immediately following the month of global prayer. United prayer will open doors and fuel effective outreach efforts throughout the earth. The *Global Prayer Digest* and Ethn are partnering together to provide a year's worth of daily prayers for the least-reached peoples on every continent from June 2006 through May 2007. Joshua Project is teaming together with Ethn to identify the unreached (UPG) and least-reached

peoples of the earth within twelve geographical regions—one for each month of the year.

The launch of this unprecedented year-long prayer initiative for one-fourth of the world is June 2006 which is strategically aligned with this year's Global Day of Prayer on Pentecost Sunday, June 4. The GDOP is preceded by 10 days of prayer and fasting and followed by 90 days of local outreach. (More infor-

The Harvest Linked Prayer Strategy Group was facilitated by Grace Gesto, Tety Irwan, Liz Adleta and Mark Kim.

mation & resources available at www.globaldayofprayer.com)

The following are some suggestions for getting your church, cell, network or group involved in the world's largest harvest-prayer effort in history:

1. Provide Ethnê brochure that gives an overview of the emphasis to each member. (A master brochure is available under Resources section at www.ethne.net and permission is given to publish and distribute.)
2. Video clips, audio clips, bulletin inserts, and prayer bookmarks on a monthly basis for each region's least-reached peoples are available to download from the www.ethne.net website, as well as on the 2-disk Ethnê DVD set (available by request). These are in multiple languages with video subtitles (11 languages currently).
3. Network with your church's mission outreach and those you know who are working among UPGs throughout the world. Let them know that a major prayer concentration is coming to their part of the world! Get them to spread the word and also make requests for them to send stories about preparations and results from work that is coordinated with the prayer emphasis to prayer@ethne.net.
4. Place a high profile announcement or banner on your church's home page, linking it further to a page just for recruiting involvement for this year's GDOP and Ethnê's Year of

Prayer. Register your own commitment at prayer@ethne.net in order to receive notices of new or updated resources.

5. Provide links on your web page to the Global Prayer Digest so they can pray each day... or have them sign up for a daily email version at: <http://www.global-prayer-digest.org/dailydata/getdaily.asp?which=today>.

6. Send out prominently placed news with your regular church e-mailings, linking them back to your web page for more information.

7. Make announcements whenever possible.

8. PRAY in church services, small groups, families, youth groups, Sunday Schools, and individually. (Special versions of GPD available for youth and children online.)

Let Ethnê know how you are going to be a part of this emphasis so we can help gain momentum as more and more people realize this is a truly global thing. You can also communicate and ask questions via email at prayer@ethne.net.

As the current worldwide stresses and strains of human and natural disasters may remind one of Habakkuk's complaint in Hab. 1:2-4, might we pray for and reach out to the least-reached peoples of the world in expectation of the Lord's answer: "Look at the nations and watch – and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told" (Habakkuk 1:5).

The Holistic Gospel Movement Strategy Group

The Holistic Gospel Movement Strategy Group was comprised of people from all over the world with a commitment to see God start Gospel movements among the unreached. The group began by establishing clear definitions: A "church" is: "A local group of baptized believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who gather regularly for worship, nurture, and fellowship; and who depart the gathering endeavoring to obey all the commands of the Lord Jesus Christ." A "holistic gospel movement" (also known as a church planting movement) is: "A gospel planting effort resulting in the birthing of consistently reproducing indigenous churches that seek to live out the whole gospel to the whole world." These are sometimes referred to as , but we wanted to emphasize the holistic

We asked, "What are some failures and mistakes we can learn from?" Leaders of the most dynamic movements were very open in sharing mistakes and setbacks, as well as lessons learned from these failures.

We spent time discussing the factors needed before a holistic gospel movement can happen. The foundational factors, or critical elements, which we listed included prayer, Scripture, holistic ministry that meets needs, evangelism that results in church planting of churches that plant more churches, and discipleship and leadership development.

Then we asked, "what can we do together?" We identified three key areas.

1. Information sharing. We will create forums where we can securely access resources and models.

2. Joint research. We will identify untouched areas in need of movements, help evaluate each other's approaches, document holistic gospel movements in process, and help form HGM think-tanks for the different religious segments of the world. 3. Training. We will be developing training manuals, radio programs, HGM workshops for churches, a church-planting coaches network, and methods to help people understand cross-cultural tensions and worldviews.

Our five purposes can be summarized as: inform, connect, pray, learn and train.

The Holistic Gospel Movement Strategy Group was facilitated by David Lim, David Watson, Stan Parks and Victor John.

The UPG Workers Strategy Group

This strategy group worked to identify possible solutions to the new challenges to recruiting, placing, training, and caring for workers serving among the Least Reached Peoples (Unreached People Groups), especially in light of constantly changing “sending” and “receiving” contexts.

We examined perceived new changes in the world, perceived changes in the missions, and related these to present day changes to the task of reaching the unreached. This led us to identify over 100 specific challenges to recruitment, equipping, deployment and member care (some of which are identified below). We ended with the following action plans:

1. We will establish an e-forum (or join an existing WEA forum) on member care.
2. We will setup an e-group for Ethne member care, to keep in touch and share resources.
3. We will make a list of currently available member care resources.
4. We will organize area and regional member care retreats for workers on the field.
5. We will recruit people to speak at churches on member care, teaching church members how to care for workers.

The UPG Workers Strategy Group was facilitated by Bob Lopez (PMA), David Packiam (Malaysia), K. Rajendran (IMA) and Timothy Olonade (NEMA).

Global Changes—

Globalization	International youth culture
Communications	Intercultural marriages
Impact of Western Media	Children without childhood
Population growth	Breakup of USSR
Life expectancy	Nuclear proliferation
Urbanization	Incr. independence of South
Rise in natural disasters	Incr. fundamentalism
Environmental issues	Lifestyle changes/fashion
Growing ecological crisis	Breakdown of family values
Energy crisis	Women in leadership
Increase in education	Religious global conflicts
Rise of global south	Mobility/migration
Growth of middle class	Refugees and Displaced
Economic shift to East	Tourism
Banking and finance	Changes in social culture
Multilevel marketing	Strategic alliances
HIV/AIDS	Mergers & Acquisitions

Changes in Mission—

No theology of suffering	Mission research
Rise in persecution	Member care
Cultural insensitivity	Growth of parachurch mission
Rise of global prayer	Tech-based proclamation
Strategic alliances	Empowering of indigenous leadership
Interagency partnerships	Incr perception of Muslims as reachable
New sending countries	Third-world workers
Holistic missions	Ease of communication
Increase in short-term mission	Church planting movements
UPG Focus	Mission-aware local churches
Spread of the Gospel	Majority of non-western missionaries
Attrition of career workers	Incr. missiological awareness
Multiregional coordination	Growth in female leadership
Disassociation from identity as missionary	Incr. Bible translation
Move from lifetime career to mini-career	Move from Church-based welfare to state-based
Rise in tentmaking	Second-career “finisher” missionaries
Rise in Business as Mission	Mission opportunities out of crisis and disasters
Incr. variety of missionary expressions/platforms	
Change from mainline to house churches	

Recruitment challenges—

Short-term vision
 Recruiting where interested
 Lack of understanding of UPG
 Lack of mission education
 Unwillingness to release best workers due to fear of loss
 Apathy—too comfortable
 Anticipated loneliness
 NGOs often recruit heavily.
 Security makes promotion hard
 Expectations of home culture
 Short-term teams ROI is not proportionate.
 Academic requirements marginalize Third World workers
 Many women willing, many churches unwilling to send
 Finding the right people.
 Perceived as less prestigious
 Mobilizers lack field knowledge

Equipping challenges—

Lack of trainers with field exp.
 Helping get at home in culture
 Lack of focus on preparing long-term workers
 Teaching on spiritual warfare
 Too much training, people lose fire
 Models on tentmakers
 Organic models of relationships
 Good training in local language
 Character development
 Lack of on-the-job training
 Equipping the regular member
 Need for mentors
 Equipping through orality
 Teaching indigenous writers to capture struggles & insights
 Losing non-Western workers to the West for education
 Equipping families

Deployment Challenges—

Visas/long-term deployment
 Cost of staying in the field
 Lack of data on UPGs
 Lack of specific research
 Lack of communication
 Tendency toward duplication
 Working in multicultural teams
 Matching ethnicity of worker with suitable ethnic group
 Getting worker to be significant trusted person among his adopted people
 Too small teams, not enough gifts to pool together
 Lack of good receiving partnerships to help with logistics, adaptation
 Lack of viable platforms
 Demand for quick results
 Connecting with nationals

Member Care Challenges—

Perception workers are super-spiritual, don't succumb
 Uncaring evaluation teams
 MK education for non-English-speaking children
 Emotional, physical protection for singles
 Younger Western generation wants too much care
 Care-givers as second-class people
 Churches with poor sending structures
 Lack of member care
 Cost of member care
 Member care workers with no long-term field experience
 Readjusting to home
 Same-culture member care workers

Our readership:

19,000 page-views in 2005.

23,000 page-views from January-March 2006.

5,000 total readers, 2006.

Countries where our readers come from:

Andorra	Lithuania
Argentina	Malaysia
Australia	Mexico
Austria	Netherlands
Belgium	New Zealand
Brazil	Norway
Bulgaria	Paraguay
Cambodia	Papua New Guinea
Canada	Philippines
Chile	Poland
China	Portugal
Costa Rica	Oman
Croatia	Qatar
Cyprus	Romania
Czech Republic	Russia
Denmark	Saudi Arabia
Dominican Republic	Singapore
Egypt	Slovak Republic
Finland	Solomon Islands
Fiji	South Africa
France	Sri Lanka
Germany	Sweden
Ghana	Switzerland
Guatemala	Taiwan
Hungary	Thailand
India	Turkey
Indonesia	Tuvalu
Ireland	United Kingdom
Israel	USA
Italy	Vanuatu
Ivory Coast	Vietnam
Japan	

Contributions

If you found this magazine to be of use, please consider making a contribution of \$10, \$25 or more to defray the costs of producing *Momentum*. You can make a gift via Paypal at our website: <http://www.momentum-mag.org>

Share Momentum

You may freely pass this article on to others provided you do not alter it in any way and do not charge for it. The article, unaltered, may be reproduced in magazines or newsletters so long as the website address is given.

Subscribe to our e-list

If you want to know when a new issue is published, you can subscribe to our notification list by sending an email to notify-momentum-subscribe@strategicnetwork.org

Check out our other publications:

The AD 2025 Buddhist Monitor

<http://www.momentum-mag.org/buddhist>