



Welcome to Ethnê06!

by Beram Kumar

For several days in March, hundreds of participants from every continent of the world have come together in Southeast Asia for a global consultation on unreached peoples.

One of the unique features of the Ethnê movement was that we planned for a different region to “host” or “steer” each meeting. This first conference was sponsored by SEALINK, the Southeast Asia regional unreached peoples network.

SEALINK can be described in three ways. First, it is an evolving network for unreached peoples in Southeast Asia: a network to serve other networks. Second, it is a platform for strengthening relationships amongst UPG-focused leaders in Southeast Asia. Third, it is a conduit for the Body outside Southeast Asia. SEALINK has three purposes: continuing research, sharing updates on UPG efforts in Southeast Asia, and discussing issues faced in UPG work in the area.

The concept of the Ethnê06 conference arose out of the Great Commission Roundtable and Singapore '02. There were additional planning meetings in Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and here in Bali itself. The steering committee and convening group for Ethnê06 is made up of people from every continent and regional UPG network.

Our vision is: “peoples joining together to glorify God among all peoples.” The purpose of Ethnê is to energize continuing initiatives among the “one-fourth world” or 27% of the world which has almost no access to the Gospel, by: (1) celebrating Great Commission progress amongst the least-reached peoples, (2) assessing current opportunities and resources, and (3) accelerating movements to Christ amongst all peoples.

We have five convening values. First, we wanted shared

leadership: no headquarters or centralized office “making decisions.” Second, we wanted to strengthen existing regional UPG networks. Third, we wanted each region to take turns hosting Ethnê global consultations. Fourth, we hold a “Body of Christ theology”: featuring cross-discipline, cross-cultural, trans-national collaboration uniting assemblies, agencies, academies and alliances. We emphasize “peoples reaching peoples” rather than a “reached and unreached” dichotomy. We are most interested in accelerating movements of all peoples to His Glory!

Ethnê06 is a working consultation. Its primary focus is on the strategy groups, workshops and seminars, which emphasize strategic actions and ongoing movement. These groups have already been working, and will continue to work after this event is over.

The verse I would like to leave you with is Isaiah 66:18-20: “It shall be that **I will gather all nations and tongues, and they shall come and see My glory.** I will set a sign among them, and those among them who escape I will send to the nations... **to the coastlands afar off who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles.**”

The Ethnê06 welcome message of Beram Kumar, Executive Director of STAMP (Strategic Missions Partnerships), a missions agency focused on mobilizing churches, developing partnerships and entry strategies for Unreached Peoples.

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