

THE CALL

April 2018



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Vol. 1 Issue 6

IPHC WORLD MISSIONS MINISTRIES

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A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Arise 2033 has envisioned and energized the IPHC. World Missions Ministries has been challenged to have a ministry presence in 150 nations and birth 5,000 new congregations outside of the United States by the year 2033. *Prayer, evangelism or winning the lost, discipling believers, planting churches, and targeting the 6,900 unreached or unengaged people groups in the world MUST become our collective priority.*

I have been concerned for several years that WMM has and is stymied and plateaued and that we needed to develop a growth engine that would lead for change. On April 12 & 13, 2018, we presented our Council with a strategic proposal that restructured our missionary leadership structure. As my friend Brad Walz says, “The structure must serve the vision, and not the vision, serve the structure.” That was not happening in our case.

Our Council unanimously approved the recommendation that the Continental Director level of leadership be eliminated and strategically replaced by a field leadership team comprised of twelve regions which will be directed by twelve regional directors. *These regional directors have now been empowered to serve as the official liaisons/representatives of World Missions Ministries in all missionary and liaison responsibilities with you, our national leaders, and churches.*

The accompanying map and regional listing will provide you with an overview of this strategic initiative.

In this new regional alignment, we report having a ministry presence in 96 countries. There are 112 countries in these regions which are identified as having no IPHC ministry presence at all. We cannot reach the lost in these countries on our own. Our global church cannot reach them as effectively on their own. We are mobilizing and positioning our missionary force to be proactive in this quest. If we commit to strategically partner together, we will all be more effective.

The move to restructure is about ‘increased effectiveness in carrying out The Great Commission and furthering the gospel of Jesus Christ.’ It is going to take more of us working together in partnership than ever before.



Bishop Talmadge Gardner

For those of you who may argue that the continent will lose its identity, let me remind you of a simple mathematical analogy: 'The whole equals the sum of its parts.' If regions [parts] are empowered to do what they have the potential to do, the continent or whole will not suffer but will consequently flourish.

World Missions Ministries is also going to start casting the vision and exposing missionaries and national leaders to ministry models in denominational missions' ministries that have successfully transitioned countries from being **RECEIVING TO SENDING COUNTRIES**. The Great Commission was intended to be an imperative for every believer, every church, and every country. Our regional director for Eastern/Sub-Sahara Africa, Ron Wooten, said it well in a Facebook post recently when he said, "Missions is not just an activity for the American Church, but is the heartbeat of God for every church."

This is a strategic, cultural, and paradigm mindset change that you and I may never see the results of in our lifetimes. According to our friend who led this assignment for the Assemblies of God (AOG) in Argentina, Brad Walz, some countries may take ten years to develop before they catch the vision. However, once Argentina bought into this mindset and understood that we are all commissioned, the Argentinian AOG developed an army of over 300 missionaries who have been sent out globally to spread the good news. Ironically, their number-two missionary target is the US.

J. Hudson Taylor, pioneer missionary to China, said these words: ***"There are three stages in any great work attempted for God: impossible, difficult, done."***

John 15:16 reminds us that, ***"You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit."***

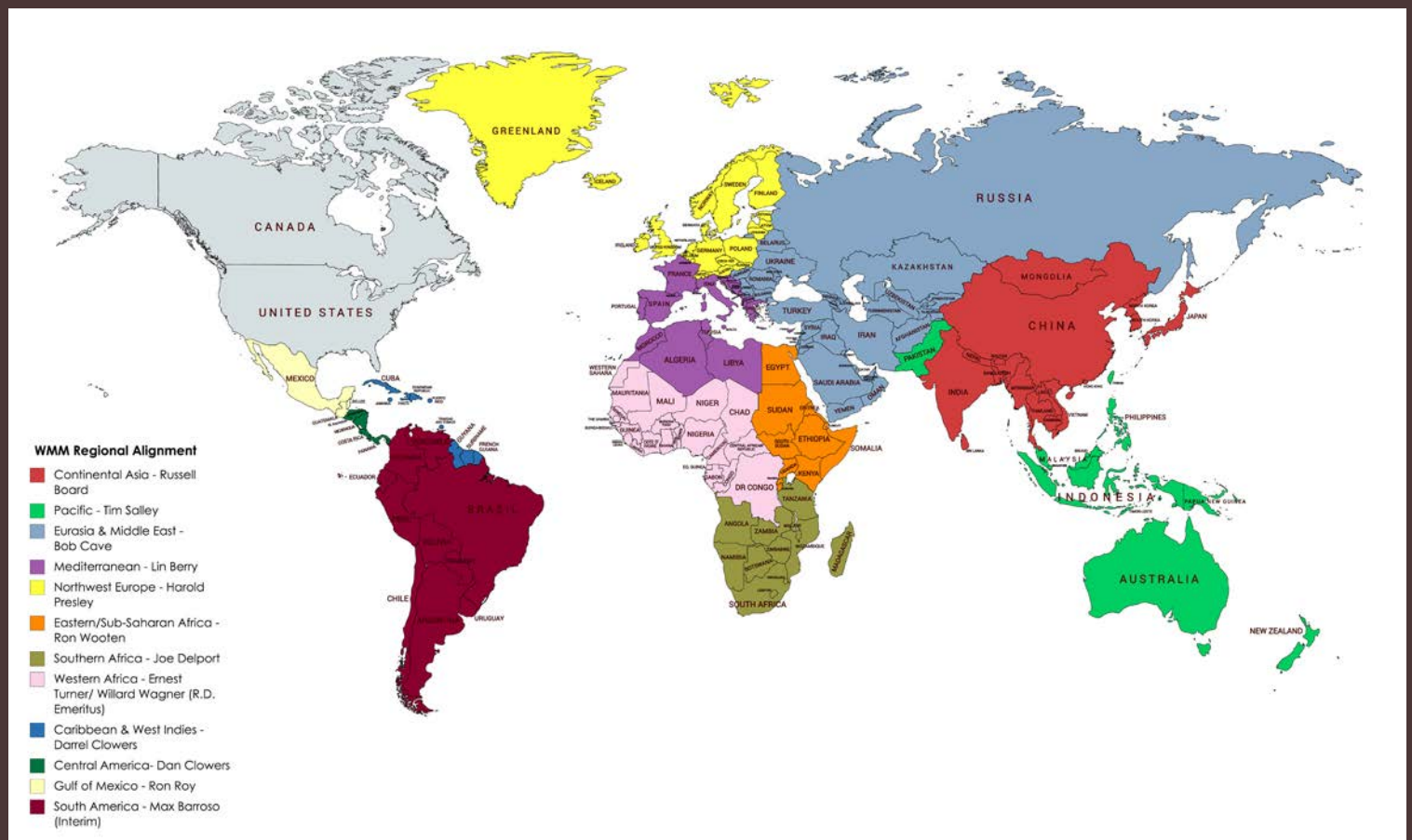
May history record our faithfulness as John Dawson has prophesied over us, ***"Your leaders are known in heaven and on earth as people who follow the cloud."***

Bishop Talmadge Gardner

Executive Director

WORLD MISSIONS MINISTRIES REGIONAL ALIGNMENT

- Continental Asia – Russell Board
- Pacific – Tim Salley
- Northwest Europe – Harold Presley
- Eurasia & Middle East – Bob Cave
- Mediterranean – Linwood Berry
- Eastern / Sub-Saharan Africa – Ron Wooten
- Southern Africa – Joe Delport
- Western Africa – Ernest Turner / Willard Wagner (R.D. Emeritus)
- Caribbean & West Indies – Darrel Clowers
- Central America – Dan Clowers
- Gulf of Mexico – Ron Roy
- South America – Max Barroso (Interim)



Click map to enlarge

Access a listing of the countries located in each region at
iphc.org/missions/regions



MEET THE WOOTENS

The Wooten family lives in Nairobi, Kenya, where they have been based for many years. Ron serves as the Regional Director for Eastern/Sub-Saharan Africa, and travels throughout the region ministering to leaders, overseeing projects, and encouraging growth in IPHC congregations.

Sharon is the director of Women's Ministries for the continent of Africa. She ministers in countries and conferences with a passion to see women in Africa reach their potential for Christ.

Together, Ron and Sharon pastor the International Church in Nairobi, *Calvary Worship Centre*, where every Sunday they have six services in five different languages for people from at least 12 different nations. They also speak at conferences and seminars for pastors and women.

Please be in prayer for good health, effective ministry, and continued financial support as the Wootens serve the Lord in the calling He has placed on their lives.

ITINERATING MISSIONARIES

Marty Delmon
Jason & Catrina Bicket
Michael & Tammy McRae
David & Michelle Riley

TO LEARN ABOUT
HAVING THESE
MISSIONARIES COME
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Baptisms in the Philippines

Life Church Cebu is a four-year old church plant in the southern Philippines. This congregation is led by World Missions Ministries missionaries, Al and Coli Argo. This month, on Resurrection Sunday, they were honored to baptize 15 people. Those baptized included students, young professionals, and two Life Coffee House workers! The mission of Life Church Cebu is simply to worship the Lord, help believers grow in His Word, witness to the world, work in the community, and welcome all. Please prayerfully support Life Church Cebu as they seek to plant two additional churches in 2018.



April baptisms in the Philippines

Church Plants in Ukraine

IPHC is alive and well in the Ukraine. Celebrating 26 years, it has grown from zero to 1,500 members in the mother church alone. There are currently 180 daughter churches, and over 15,000 members. However, this growth has come with a price, and the difficulties in the country have caused many people to reach out and seek the Lord. Russia's army has been camped at the Ukrainian border for over four years. There, thousands have died. All of our churches in the Crimea region are now under Russian control, yet thousands have come to Christ in the past four years alone. What will it take in the rest of the world for hearts to be stirred in this way?

"PRAYER IS MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN PERSUASION"

- TEODOR BULZAN

Global Leadership Summit

World Missions Ministries conducted the 3rd Global Leadership Summit in Oklahoma City, April 16-20. Bishop Talmadge Gardner, along with his General Council and Leadership Team, welcomed over 100 attendees to this landmark event. This number included over 50 international IPHC leaders from over 40 nations. The week featured challenging speakers, vision casting, strategic planning, and priceless fellowship. Among the most important themes of emphasis were: (a) the Arise 2033 Challenge, (b) transitioning from receiving nations to sending nations, and (c) strategies for reaching unreached people groups. World Missions Ministries extends special thanks to the River of Life Church for hosting the Summit in Oklahoma City.



Mother church members worship in Ukraine

EPIC world
missions



2018

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT





COFFEEHOUSE MINISTRIES

The Word to the World Through the Marketplace

By Kathryn Shepard

Assistant to the director of Missionary Care

During the 2018 Global Leadership Summit, I had the privilege of observing interview sessions with missionaries and national leaders sharing their heart about Coffeehouse Ministries. I was touched by their passion, purpose, and sense of urgency to reach their communities, and I was stirred to share how this ministry is making a way for individuals to meet Christ personally.

The term marketplace often refers to the grander scale of commerce, trade, and global economies. It is also seen as the central part of a town where residents go about their daily lives and tourists seek out the greatest attractions. Whichever way you perceive it, there is one common denominator - people, and a lot of them.

People have different views when it comes to Christianity and what it means to be a follower of Christ. Many have never been to church, nor wish to enter its doors. Take Europe for example. Out of its estimated population of 602,467,000, 71% claim to be Christian, but only 2.7% is believed to be Evangelical, which means they profess Jesus as the sole source of salvation through faith. In Asia and the Middle East, 2.8% are found to be Evangelical, out of a population of 4,576,021,000. ¹

So, how do we reach a vast majority of those who (1) have not heard the good news of salvation, (2) have heard and do not believe, or (3) may claim to be a Christian but need discipleship? If they are not going to the church, the church must go to them and meet them where they are.

Coffeehouse Ministries provides an avenue to communicate the Gospel outside the confines of a church building. It is not about a cup of coffee or tea; it is about taking something that is common, familiar, and enjoyable and using it as a tool to show the love of Christ through action and word. Coffeehouses are diverse in nature, but the core of each establishment is the same: to minister to the body and soul of those who enter, and as time progresses, plant a church with the people who have been impacted by its ministry.

Coffeehouse Ministries is amid the marketplace, meeting the needs of each respective community. The following reveals only a snapshot of the coffeehouses currently operating around the globe:

- In Spain, a country inspired by the arts, Project CReA ministers the Word through art and culture, gathering people together who share common interests.
- In Paris, Art Sur Scène is hosting a large event, also inspired by the arts, where the theme is *Making the Invisible Visible*. Through painting, music, and dance, attendees will come to learn about the Creator.
- In Ukraine, Varnava Coffeehouse exists to be a beacon of hope to a community in need of rehabilitation and emotional support. They enjoy a free cup of coffee, hear the life-changing message of salvation through Jesus Christ, receive the help they need, and become a witness of God's love and compassion.
- In Hungary, the TAB Coffeehouse is a gathering place to strengthen connections and relationships with the local community.
- In the Philippines, Life Coffee House & Library is strategically placed in a community mall, directly across from a major university, with around 8-10 thousand people walking by each day. It is a place of discipleship, and all who enter do not leave without reading or hearing the name of Jesus.

The book of John shares Jesus' prayer to the Father, saying, "In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world... I'm praying not only for them but also for those who will believe in me because of them and their witness about me" (John 17:18,20, MSG).

We, as believers carry in our hearts the Good News that is for all who have an ear to hear. Coffeehouse Ministries is a powerful and effective way to show people that Jesus is not reserved for those who enter a building. He is ever-present for every person, and with the Holy Spirit's help and creativity, we are His witnesses in the marketplace.



**MINISTRY
SPOTLIGHT**



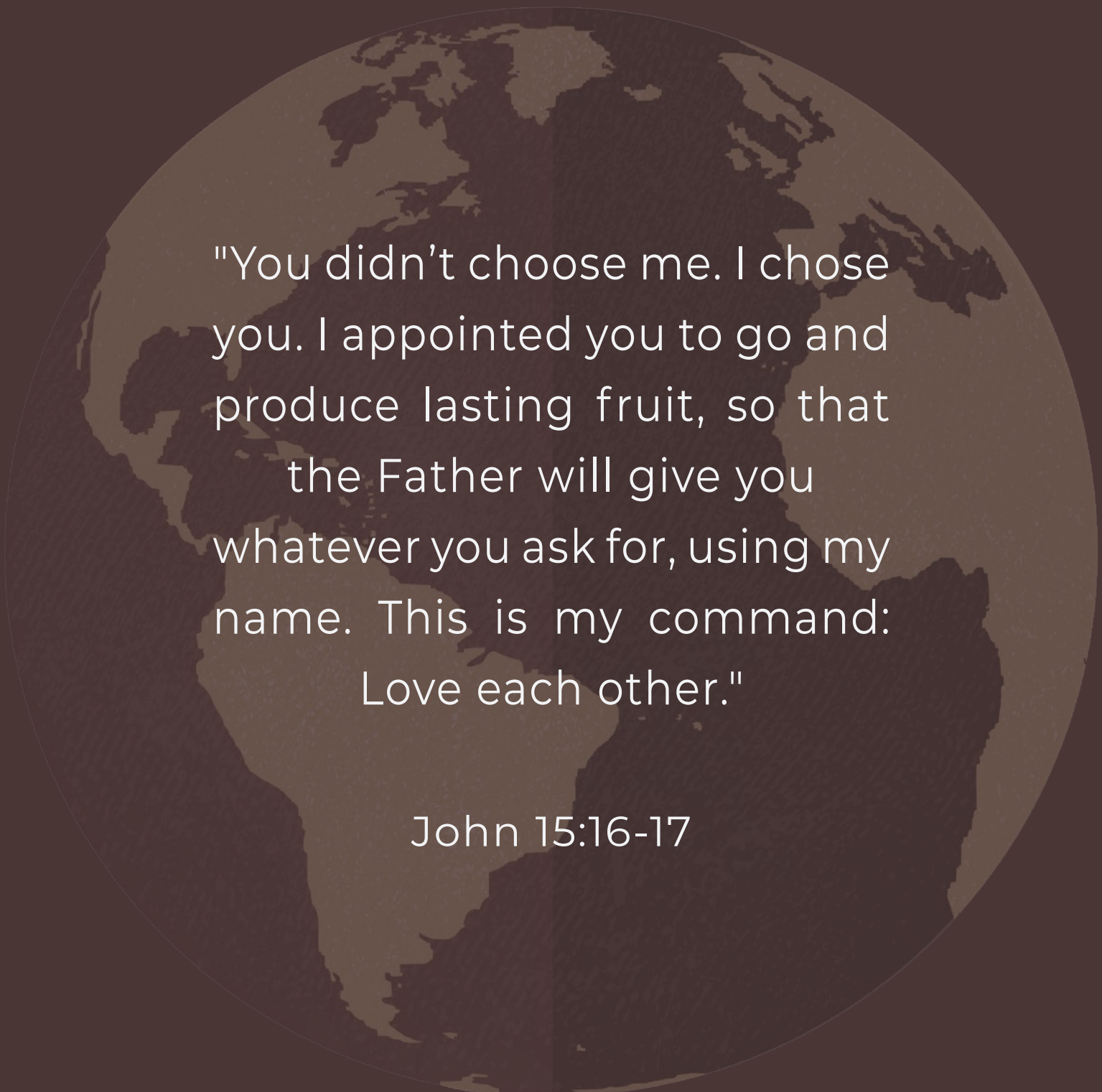
THE DRAMA OF MISSIONS IN THE BIBLE

Act 6: Missions in the Epistles
Part 6 of 7
By Dr. Terry Tramel

The richest theology in the New Testament emerges from the pens of Paul and the other apostles in their 21 epistles. The truth of God's mercy extending to all people was evidenced by the life of Christ in the Gospels, and the spreading of that message to the ends of the earth in Acts is clearly foundational in these inspired letters. Peter wrote that "God is not willing that any should perish" (2 Peter 3:9) and Paul added, "God would have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). The believer's responsibility in taking the Gospel to the lost is vividly portrayed by Paul's confession that he was "a debtor" to the whole human race who remained in the lost condition that he previously had known (Romans 1:14-17).

One of the richest metaphors emphasizing the missionary role is that of the ambassador. Such a title speaks of a person from one country, who goes to live in another country, yet remains on official business for the nation from where he or she came. Paul indicated that the "business" of the Christian ambassador is "the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18-21). Just as Christ came to reconcile the world to His Father, now that task has been transposed to the Church, the Lord's representatives on earth.

It is in Paul's theological masterpiece of Romans, where the greatest missionary themes are pronounced. The Apostle, again, makes it clear that "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). He followed that direct promise with a series of four questions: (1) "How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?" (2) "How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?" (3) "How shall they hear without a preacher?" (4) "How shall they preach except they be sent?" (Romans 10:13-14). He then quoted Isaiah's description of the "beautiful feet" of those who bring the good tidings of peace to those who have not heard it (Isaiah 52:7; Romans 10:15). It is the answer to these rhetorical questions that provides the basis for the continuation of sending missionaries until all have heard the good news of the Gospel.



"You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. This is my command: Love each other."

John 15:16-17