



May 2007

Dear Family and Friends,

Last time we clobbered you with all the places we had been in 2006. We did that to prove we were still alive and kicking!

But maybe you would like to know not just **WHERE** but **WHY** we are going all these places. Here are some examples:

1. Why did we go to **Amsterdam** in 2005? After many years of planning and praying the time seemed right to build on the world level what is now called the Global Network of Mission Structures (GNMS). It happened. The GNMS now exists with its central office in Malaysia.
2. Why did we go to **Turkey** last November? Our greatest hopes born in Amsterdam came to pass. The meeting included mission leaders from all over the Third World. In a side meeting at the conference we saw tentative agreement to joint sponsorship of a world-level meeting in 2010. (See reason for this meeting below.)
3. Why did we go to **Portland** in February? This was a follow-up meeting to firm up plans discussed in Turkey. Who was there? This is complicated. All around the world today the new mission field churches are developing their own mission sending structures/agencies. In most countries these agencies are linked together **NATIONALLY** as members of mission associations. In four regions of the world there is a linking together of agencies in **REGIONAL** associations, and these were the ones gathered at the Portland meeting.
4. Why are we going to **London** mid May? Official representatives of the four regions will meet to form the working committee for the 2010 meeting to be held in Japan. The glue holding all this together is the GNMS formed in Amsterdam.
5. What's the reason for the 2010 meeting? Very rarely in history have mission-sending structures from the whole world met together to compare notes to improve and coordinate their efforts. It happened in 1910. It did not happen again until 1980 despite multitudes of world-level conferences sponsored by the Lausanne Committee, the World Evangelical Association, and the World Council of Churches. None of those meetings have consisted **exclusively of mission executives delegated by mission agencies**, not invited to a meeting to fulfill the agenda of a single sponsoring entity.
6. What will happen in 2010 (and before)? The newest "new" massive development on the world level is not poverty, not disease, not global slavery, not even globalization. It is the rapid acceleration of population mobility. Today

there may be twice as many people in countries not of their origin as there were twenty years ago. This includes human trafficking and illegal immigration as well as hundreds of millions of foreign workers. What is "made in Japan" today is often the work of imported Filipinos living in Japan. Even within countries like India, millions of displaced fragments of families are demanded by the industries of the north.

Why is this population movement so significant for missions? It means that the peoples of the world are a moving target! It means that a large percentage of the world's peoples are no longer in one place. For example, there are more Samoans in Los Angeles than in Samoa; there are fewer Swazis in Swaziland than outside; and fully half of the Turkmen live outside Turkmenistan in thirteen other countries.

Briefly, this means that national and regional associations can only partially track these global migrations. Thus the meeting in 2010 will, we pray, bring flesh to the bare bones of the newly existing GNMS.

Are we doing anything else? This is only ten percent of the exciting opportunities God has brought and continues to bring into our lives. That would take 30 more pages!!

Come see us.

Wishing you would join us,



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