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THE MISSIONAL CHURCH PASTORS CHECK

It's a matter of focus – "Mission at the heart of the church, the church at the heart of mission" (Bryan Knell, Global Connections, UK).

The Missional Church Pastors track (MCP) initially started with what was believed to be a one-time event. It took place during the Mission Commission meeting in June 2006 at Cape Town. Thirty pastors, almost all South African, met in a separate track during the workshop and seminar times. Gathering together gave the pastors an opportunity to network and to discuss how the South African church can more effectively be involved in world evangelization, along with the opportunity to interact with the leaders of international mission movements and agencies.

Many of the pastors testified how the Lord used this time to refocus their priorities in the church. Gathering a group of pastors at the WEA – MC meetings highlighted its value and the need to create more opportunities to engage the local church at future meetings.

It was decided to once again host a pastors meeting during the next MC convention in Thailand, November, 2008. At this meeting, the group asked the MC leadership if a formal Missional Church Pastors track could be started. Permission was granted to form the

new track. Our initial planning focused on the following aspects:

Local Church Perspective

- to include the missional church voice in the ongoing reflective work of MC task forces

Learning Network

- to develop a global network of missional churches and pastors to encourage mutual learning in missions

Cooperative Synergy

- to facilitate missional synergy between specialist mission organizations and churches

Flow of Information

- to introduce the work and resources of the MC to local missional churches and to "upload" to the MC current findings, stories, lessons and variety of models learned in recent missionary history of missional churches globally

We see our preliminary task as to identify mission church pastors with significant involvement in global missions. We are in a process of surveying 300 churches from around the world to help us determine which churches are really involved in missions and church planting.

To date, we have received 95 surveys coming from 34 countries—both poor and rich parts of the world. In October 2009, the leadership team met to discuss the initial findings of the survey. One of the categories in the survey asks about the current missionaries active from their churches. We were amazed to learn how much these churches are doing.

- 78 of the 95 churches have active

field missionaries.

- The 78 churches have 5,139 active field missionaries.
- Of the 5,139 active missionaries, 2,530 are globally involved, 306 regionally, 1,214 nationally and 1,089 locally.
- The Philippines, South Korea, India, USA and DRC Congo have the most number of active missionaries, according to our initial survey.

It is obvious that many local churches around the world are doing amazing work to expand the Kingdom of God. It is time to tell their story and to give them the credit that is due to them. Our leadership team met again in Grand Rapids, USA to assess the surveys and to revisit our vision and values statement.

The initial step for a church to connect with the Missional Church Pastors Track is to complete the survey at the following address:

<http://www.mcpsite.com:8888/Questionnaire/weamc/index.jsp>

We believe in time we will connect in a more meaningful way with the regional, national mission movements and agencies and we are thankful to those national and regional mission movements that have assisted us to get the information of churches in their part of the world. We ask each of you to help us to connect with the local churches across the globe that are expanding the kingdom. Send information to this address:

wmcint@worldmissioncentre.com ●