

**March 2011**

## **AGORA WEA MISSION COMMISSION WORLD FORUM**

**Agora** is the Greek word for market place, forum, where people gathered for dialogue, discussions, sharing information or just for being together (Acts 17:17). **Agora** is an open forum for the MC Associates, MC Task Forces and Networks as a complement to the magazine **Connections**. Brief texts and news for publication in **Agora** can be sent to our office: [bekstrom@worldevangelical.org](mailto:bekstrom@worldevangelical.org)

**Agora** is also available at our [www.weaconnections.com](http://www.weaconnections.com)

Read in this issue of **Agora**:

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### ***Streams under an Oak...Musings\****

"God's Disturbing Mission" is the theme of the MC Consultation in Germany in November this year. Unusual, disturbing, provocative? Yes, that is the intention. But also stimulating, reflective and creative. Firstly, it is God's Mission, not ours! Chris Wright defines our mission as "the committed participation as God's people, at God's invitation and command, in God's own mission within the history of God's world for the redemption of God's creation". (*The Mission of God*, 2006:22,23)

Secondly, we live in a changing and disturbed world with a great variety of realities and contexts. Thirdly, God is challenging and disturbing our traditional forms of doing mission through raising alternative models and acting in ways that surprises us all.

In the beginning of this month, the MC Staff gathered for five days with the younger leaders' Continuum group and the leadership of the European Evangelical Mission Association at the Schönblick centre to plan for the Global Consultation. The overall feeling the group had was that the best way of describing the current situation in global mission is 'messiness'. There is such a complexity in the missionary world today that no single conference, strategy or evaluation can be fully comprehensive. There must be place for alternative views, other perspectives and different interpretations. The dogmatic affirmations regarding how to do Christian mission has to be questioned and discussed. Terms in vogue, although helpful to emphasise certain needs, have to be challenged and balanced with the understanding of other realities and emphases. Based on biblical reflection and looking at the complex reality of the world today, the Global Consultation will deal with some of the hard issues related to mission, in the usual combination of reflection and practical application.

*Bertil Ekström*



MC Staff together with the Continuum group and EEMA leadership

PS! A special thanks to the members of the Continuum group that invested their time and effort, contributing creatively to the planning of the November consultation.

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## GOD'S DISTURBING MISSION

### GLOBAL MISSION COMMISSION CONSULTATION 2011



**The Christian Centre Schönblick, in Swäbisch Gmünd, Germany.**

**Please, book the date!! November 6-11, 2011**

The Conference Centre is located 45 minutes by car from the Stuttgart International Airport, the closest international airport.

The dates for the Mission Commission Global Consultation are:

- Start: Sunday November 6, as from dinner. Throughout this whole Sunday you are welcome to arrive at the conference centre and to register.
- Departure: Friday November 11, after breakfast.  
For those who need accommodation due to early arrival or late departure, alternative accommodation will be advised.

Training seminars will be offered before and during the MC consultation with a limited number of participants. Apart from the time before the main consultation, two afternoons during the consultation will also be dedicated to the continuation of the training seminars. When registration starts in March 2011, you will be able to sign in for one of these seminars. Guarantee you place making your registration as soon as possible!

The following training seminars are planned for:

- Starting on Friday, November 4, with lunch:  
**Writing for Publication**, led by Dr *Miriam Adeney*.  
*Maximum number of attendees: 15*
- Starting on Saturday, November 5, with lunch:  
**Integral Missionary Training**, led by Dr Rob Brynjolfson. Maximum number: 20  
**Stewardship in Mission**, led by Rob Martin. Maximum number: 15

**How to Start and Strengthen National Mission Movements**, led by David Ruiz. Maximum number: 15

There is also a possibility that there will be a **Missional Pastors' Pre-consultation** starting on Saturday, November 5, with lunch. Maximum number: 50

All these pre-events will finish Sunday, November 6, with dinner, in order to join the start of the main Mission Commission consultation. Invitations will be sent soon when registration will also be available. We would expect the participants of the pre-consultation training events to stay also for the main consultation.

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## **Arts in Mission 2011: Training for Cross-Cultural Ministry**

**September 4-11, at All Nations, Ware, UK**

Over recent years, Christian communities have been giving renewed attention to the arts worldwide. Books, articles, websites, conferences and workshops all demonstrate this growing awareness of the importance of artistic means to engage with what God is doing in the world. The arts touch hearts, opening eyes and ears to God's word and connecting people across national, cultural and linguistic boundaries. There is now an increasing interest among mission agencies, churches and other ministries to provide training for effective and vibrant involvement of the arts in cross-cultural ministry.

Among groups focusing on the missional engagement of the arts has been The International Council of Ethnodoxologists. ICE has marshaled a global network spanning seventy nations and has launched online resources, forums, conferences and workshops. SIL conducts in-depth training for music and arts cross-cultural workers to become consultants and specialists on the field. Most recently, the Mission Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance has established an *Arts in Mission* Task Force to encourage artistic endeavours in the nations. These and other groups have joined forces to convene a landmark gathering for practitioners to become trainers in the various arts disciplines.

**The Arts in Mission Task Force is asking for recommendations of people to be invited to the training seminar. If you know of people involved in this area that you think should be invited, please send a note to Robin Harris – [Robin.Harris@usa.om.org](mailto:Robin.Harris@usa.om.org). More information at [www.worldofworship.org/AiM2011](http://www.worldofworship.org/AiM2011)**

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**Report of the  
East Africa Consultation on National Mission Movements  
Nairobi, Kenya - January 17-21, 2011**



Participants at the East Africa Consultation

### Introduction

The WEA MC, through the efforts of Kees van der Wilden and K. Rajendran and with the blessings and advise of David Ruiz -coordinator of the NMM track of the MC- assisted in, as requested by the East African Church, an East African Consultation on National Mission Movements. The consultation took place in Nairobi from January 17-21, 2011.

Much ground work was done to bring in Church and Mission Leaders from 5 different countries of East Africa: leaders from Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya attended the consultation. Leaders from Burundi also were invited, but for reasons still unknown, could not make it to Nairobi.

### Focus

The focus and the theme of the meeting was to encourage existing national indigenous mission movements and churches in each of these nations into further cooperation, by initiating a process to establish a National Mission Movement, to help these movements and churches in their missional endeavors.

### Organisation

Bishop Rev. Dr. Steve Kabachia, representing MANI with Duncan Olumbe, the Coordinator of Mission Together Africa (MTA) and Finish the Task (FTT) organized the meeting, sent out information and invitations to all the concerned leaders in 5 or 6 surrounding East African countries. The response was overwhelming with people from at

least 5 countries. Many traveled 12 to 24 hours to get to Nairobi. There were around 50 people present in the sessions. There were also some expat missionaries from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Korea and Fiji.

### The actual Consultation

The atmosphere in the Dimesse Spirituality Center at Karen in the outskirts of Nairobi was very good for the meet. The theme, "Starting National Mission Movements in East – Africa" attracted a great attention and enthusiasm from the participants.

The meetings on each of these days began with songs and a devotion led by the brethren from that region. There was an excellent spirit of fellowship and continual discussion by the participants till they actually went to bed.

The participants were matured leaders, though from both the 'older' and 'younger' generations, who understood the issues of mission which made it easy for conveners (K. Rajendran and Kees van der Wilden) to address them on issues of starting mission movements in their nations.

The conveners began each session with some thought provoking suggestions and led the participants to think through issues for each to apply the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of a National Mission Movement. With all the thinking, the group was excited and realized that the time has come to begin their own movements of missions in their areas. The leaders also expressed awareness that this is the time for Africans to take the Gospel to their nations and beyond.

Within the focus of creating a National Mission Movement, the following were some of the topics covered and discussed.

- The background and history of world missions, the reality of today and the way forward.
- Africa in relationship with the rest of the world
- Empowerment
- Mission Mobilisation
- Leadership development
- MemberCare
- How to begin National Mission Movements, the process & possible structures.
- SWOT Analysis of the need for national mission movements.
- The findings of discussions on the above about the possibilities in each of the countries represented in the meeting.
- Appointing of an ad-hoc process leader (facilitator) in each of the countries represented.

- Other, new and relevant, movements existing in the respective nations to engage with
- Other related questions and answers.

### Vision Statements

All 4 countries developed a vision statement for their National Mission Movement to be to use it as communication tool to the national church and mission leadership in their countries.

The vision statements:

- 1.Kenya: *Harmonized strategic mission movements transforming Kenya and the world for Jesus*
- 2.Tanzania: *Believing in the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ to reach unreached groups, rebuilding their life spiritually, physically, mentally to prepare them for the better life*
- 3.Uganda: *Mobilized mission initiatives in Uganda, holistically carrying out the Great Commission*
- 4.Rwanda: *To see the Body of Christ in Rwanda becoming a missionary sending church through sharing available resources*

### Evaluation

The following results can be celebrated from the consultation:

- Each country (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda en Rwanda) appointed a facilitator to be the person to:
  - inform the key leaders in their specific countries about the process that started at the consultation
  - Call together a national meeting in each of the countries to continue the process leading to the establishment of a National Mission Movement
- Each of the above mentioned countries left the consultation with an action plan for the remaining part of the year, most of them working towards the establishment of 'their' National Mission Movement during the first quarter of 2012
- The following remarks and suggestions came from the participants:
  - We return home with a sense of togetherness, no longer as sheer individuals
  - We have seen a new beginning thanks to the reality of cooperation
  - We learned how to do mission
  - We enjoyed encouraging meetings with a high level of mutuality and collaboration
  - How can we continue to meet together?

- Are there aspects of cooperation that we can learn from secular entities like politics and business groups?
- I discovered that Africans can come together to cooperate, share resources and encourage each other.
- Several indicated that the help in leading the national consultation of the WEA MC will be much appreciated

Both conveners were trying to make sure that the groups related and worked with MANI and other regional movements, as well as to start considering the benefit of an East African Regional Movement. Dr. Steven Kabachia was asked to fulfill the role of moderator to continue the communication and thinking process among the appointed facilitators.

Finally, the participants were very enthusiastic and thanked us as representatives of WEA MC. They were also thankful for the subsidy for the consultation from WEA MC to begin the thinking process.

K. Rajendran and Kees van der Wilden

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## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

### **Japan**

#### **From the Asia Evangelical Alliance:**

We at Asia Evangelical Alliance are shocked and deeply grieve the loss of lives and devastation caused by Japan's strongest-ever earthquake and the tsunami yesterday. Our hearts go out to especially those who have lost their friends and relatives.

As of today, the toll has crossed 1,600, and rising. There are also reports of a blast at one of Japan's nuclear power plant, which may pose a major threat to the survivors' health from ensuing radiation. The task for rebuilding before the government of Prime Minister Naoto Kan and the hundreds of relief workers is massive, and emotionally and spiritually exhaustive. We express our support and confidence in their invaluable and courageous efforts. We heard from AEA's Executive member from Yokohama, Japan, the Rev. Paul H. Ueki, today that sporadic aftershocks of the earthquakes are still being felt in the country. "Each denomination is collecting reports of the churches in disaster stricken areas," the Rev. Ueki said. It may take a few weeks for the Japan Evangelical Alliance to compile a report affected churches, he added.

As the Christians in Asia observe the Lenten season, we urge them to match the grief of the sufferers of this disaster with their prayers to our God. We also humbly ask the Asian Christian community to generously support the relief efforts with all possible resources God has made available to us.

**Prayer requests sent by Liz Adleta (ethne-prayer groups)**

- The devastation from the initial earthquake was compounded by heavy tsunamis that hammered the east coast, and even after 24 hours, the eastern coast of Japan was still under warning for tsunamis. Sendai City was hit the hardest, both by the temblor and the tsunami. Some towns were entirely obliterated by the tsunamis. Please pray that these tsunamis will cease.
- Casualty reports are still coming in. As of Saturday afternoon local time, the death toll had exceeded 1,000, with over 600 still missing. Pray for those who are trapped and injured, as well as those who are missing friends and family.
- In Fukushima Prefecture, two nuclear power plants are under a state of emergency. The reactors are overheating at the number 1 plant, and at the number 2 plant, the reactor pressure has been rising. At the Fukushima number 1 plant, there was an explosion Saturday afternoon, 4 PM local time, injuring four workers. The evacuation around the Fukushima power plant 1 has been expanded to 20 kilometers. Radiation levels at the plant have been measured at 1,051 microsievert. One hour of exposure to that much radiation is the same amount that the average human receives in a year. Please pray that the situation will get under control soon, before anything more serious occurs.
- Pray also for the weather. With radiation being diffused into the air, wind or rain could carry it into populated areas and expose people. Pray that any wind will carry radiation out to sea rather than into populated areas. What's more, bitterly cold night-time temperatures could prove life-threatening for those who are trapped.
- Public transit systems in Tokyo and the surrounding areas were shut down for hours after the quake, with some people still stranded away from their families. Limited railway use has resumed. Pray for those who are stranded away from their loved ones at this difficult time.
- Millions of homes in northeastern Japan are without power, and over a million homes in Ibaraki prefecture are without fresh water supplies. Pray for the power plants and water facilities to be able to resume their work, and pray for those who do not have these essential supplies.

- Tens of thousands of people have been evacuated from their homes in the coastal areas and the area around the Fukushima nuclear power plants. Please pray for them, and all who are having to stay in public shelters.
- Relief workers are working around the clock to rescue survivors, but things are grim for coastal cities due to the continual bombardment of tsunamis. Pray for the relief workers, that God would grant safety and stamina.
- Pray for the Christians of Japan, that we would be able to mobilize relief efforts and provide for people's needs, both physical and spiritual.

### **From Egypt – Prayer Announcement of the Kasr El Doubara-Church in Cairo**

Our beloved country of Egypt is passing through difficult times in these days. Thousands of people have gone into the streets to express their economic, social and political demands. These demands spring from the sufferings of the Egyptian people as they face hard living conditions and many pressures. We know all about these struggles, for we face them too. Our love for our dear country has caused us to pray earnestly for many years for all sections of our population. So we now call all our brothers and sisters in the church and all our friends to redouble their prayers with us, so that we may come through this time in peace, and emerge as a more united people with a stronger faith in a bright future for our country. May the Lord give each and every one in his own particular situation a vision to see how he can contribute positively, without violence or destruction. Let us seek the face of the Lord and ask for the grace of persevering, hopeful prayer for the making of a worthy future for ourselves and our children. Let us cry out to him with broken hearts and repent of all corruption and wrongdoing both in us and around us. May He bless our country with goodness, peace, justice and righteousness.

### **From Nigeria**

As you are very much aware of, the lingering crises in Jos resurfaced towards the end of 2010 with series of bomb blast leading to the death of scores of persons. We cried to God fervently trusting that the crises will end with the year. Unfortunately, the ones in 2011 seemingly worse. Everything in the past one week has been on standstill. The streets are almost completely empty. The banks were locked up. The shops were not open. The casualties resulted from the killings were neatly concealed apparently to avoid reprisal attacks. We no doubt covet your prayers now than ever. Pray for our staff, friends and partners in the city for divine protection. Pray for both the state and federal government of Nigeria for wisdom on how to approach the issues on ground. (Rev. Andrew)

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## REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

### 2011

#### March

14-17 COMIBAM - Mission Leaders Gathering, Panama. Contact: [decarvalho@comibam.org](mailto:decarvalho@comibam.org)

#### April

2-9 Vision 5:9 Network Assembly, Bali, Indonesia. Contact: Derek Wong –

[Derek.wong@fconsult.net](mailto:Derek.wong@fconsult.net)

5-9 – Lausanne Researchers Conference – Atibaia, Sao Paulo, Brazil – [www.cra.org.au](http://www.cra.org.au)

#### May

15 Internet Evangelism Day - more information at [www.web-evangelism.com](http://www.web-evangelism.com)

#### June

1-4 Engage – Linking the Voices of Global Mission – Chicago, USA, organised by Cross Global Link - [www.crossgloballink.org/](http://www.crossgloballink.org/)

#### July

25-27 East Africa Orality Consultation, Nairobi, Kenya. Contact: [samuelechiang@gmail.com](mailto:samuelechiang@gmail.com)

#### August

1-3 Southern Africa Orality Consultation, Johannesburg, South Africa. Contact:

[samuelechiang@gmail.com](mailto:samuelechiang@gmail.com)

#### September

4-10 MANI – Movement of African National Initiatives – Consultation on Unreached People Groups in Africa – Abuja, Nigeria - [www.maniafrica.com](http://www.maniafrica.com)

4-11 Arts in Mission 2011 – Training for Cross-Cultural Ministry - [www.worldofworship.org/AiM2011](http://www.worldofworship.org/AiM2011)

#### October

10-14 6<sup>th</sup> Brazilian Mission Congress, Caldas Novas, Brazil.

[www.congressobrasileirodemişsoes.com](http://www.congressobrasileirodemişsoes.com)

#### November

6-11 Mission Commission Global Consultation, Schönblick, Germany

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## 2012

### February

20-24 European Membercare Conference, Schönblick, Germany, [www.membercareeurope.com](http://www.membercareeurope.com)

### April

23-27 Global Member Care Network Conference, Chiang Mai, Thailand. More information at [www.globalmembercare.com](http://www.globalmembercare.com)

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## Bulletins and Websites

Many resources and updated mission information are available on the websites and in the bulletins of our networks, partners and associates. The list below is a sampler of some of the MC global partners.

### MC related Networks:

International Missionary Training Network – IMTN - [theimtn.org/tiki-index.php](http://theimtn.org/tiki-index.php)

Global Member Care Network – GMCN - [www.globalmembercare.com/](http://www.globalmembercare.com/)

Refugee Highway Partnership – RHP - [refugeehighway.net/](http://refugeehighway.net/)

Tentmakers International – TI - [tentmakersinternational.com/](http://tentmakersinternational.com/)

International Partnership Associates – [www.betterpartnerships.net](http://www.betterpartnerships.net)

Ethne - [www.ethne.net/](http://www.ethne.net/)

### Regional Mission Movements:

COMIBAM, Latin America – [www.comibam.org](http://www.comibam.org)

EEMA, Europe – [www.europeanema.org](http://www.europeanema.org)

MANI, Africa – [www.maniafrica.com/](http://www.maniafrica.com/)

CARIBBEAN – [www.caribbeanevangelical.org](http://www.caribbeanevangelical.org)

### National Mission Movements

#### Africa:

Nigeria Evangelical Missions Association – [www.nematoday.org/index.php](http://www.nematoday.org/index.php)

WENSA, South Africa - [www.wensa.org.za/](http://www.wensa.org.za/)

#### Asia:

Philippines Mission Association - [www.cybermissions.org/pma/](http://www.cybermissions.org/pma/)

Indian Mission Association – [www.imaindia.org](http://www.imaindia.org)  
Singapore Centre for Global Missions - [www.scgm.org.sg](http://www.scgm.org.sg)  
Japan Evangelical Missionary Association – [www.jema.org](http://www.jema.org)  
Japan Overseas Missions Association – [www.joma.mydns.jp](http://www.joma.mydns.jp)  
National C. E. Alliance, Sri Lanka - [www.nceasl.org/NCEASL/missions/home.php](http://www.nceasl.org/NCEASL/missions/home.php)  
Korean World Mission Association – [kwma.org/eng/index.html](http://kwma.org/eng/index.html)  
Malaysian Center for Global Missions – [www.mcgm.net.my](http://www.mcgm.net.my)

Europe:

Global Connections, UK - [www.globalconnections.co.uk/](http://www.globalconnections.co.uk/)  
Swedish Mission Council - [www.missioncouncil.se](http://www.missioncouncil.se)  
Norwegian Council for Mission and Evangelism – [www.norme.no](http://www.norme.no)  
Danish Mission Council – [www.dmr.org](http://www.dmr.org)  
AEM, Switzerland – [www.aem.ch](http://www.aem.ch) (German)  
EZA, Netherlands – [eza.nl](http://eza.nl) (Dutch)  
AEM, Germany – [www.aem.de](http://www.aem.de) (German)

Latin America:

Brazilian Association of Cross-Cultural Missions, Brazil – [www.amtb.org.br](http://www.amtb.org.br) (Portuguese)  
COMIMEX, Mexico – [www.comimex.org](http://www.comimex.org) (Spanish)  
FEDEMEC, Costa Rica – [www.fedemec.org](http://www.fedemec.org) (Spanish)

North America:

Cross Global Link, USA – [www.crossglobalink.org/](http://www.crossglobalink.org/)  
Mission Exchange, USA – [themissionexchange.org/](http://themissionexchange.org/)  
Evangelical Fellowship of Canada - [www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/](http://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/)

South Pacific:

Mission Interlink, Australia – [www.missionsinterlink.org.au](http://www.missionsinterlink.org.au)  
Mission Interlink, New Zealand – [www.missions.org.nz](http://www.missions.org.nz)

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*Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him – to the only wise God be glory for ever through Jesus Christ! Amen. (Romans 16: 25-27)*