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PAST PRESENT FUTURE

*Todd Poulter, Kent Parks and Beram Kumar are  
the members of the Steering Committee for ETHNE.*

*Todd Poulter, Kent Parks, Beram Kumar*

## ETHNE 2009

For four days in November 2009, over 400 leaders from nearly 60 countries came together for **Ethné09** in Bogota, Colombia, for one primary purpose—to energize the Body of Christ to multiply ministry among the “forgotten fourth” of the world who still lack access to the Gospel.

Participants heard reports of what God is doing all over the world, and then prayed together for each region. Here are some highlights and prayer challenges:

- There are more missionaries in Turkey than there are Turkish believers.
- The majority of Unreached People Groups in Latin America are in Brazil (348).
- The North Caucasus region of Russia has a seemingly infinite number of language groups—“a new language at every bend in the river.”
- India has 310 Unreached People Groups of over 1 million people, and only 63 of its 500 languages have complete translations of the Bible.
- Sudan has more Unreached People Groups than the 22 other African countries combined.
- Japan has never had more than 1% of its population as Christians.
- There are twice as many Lebanese in Brazil alone (8 million) than in Lebanon itself.
- In one sensitive nation of 6 million people in N. Africa, there are only 20 known believers among 40 Un-

reached People Groups.

- And finally, something to rejoice over. Twenty years ago in Mongolia, 3 evangelical churches existed with about 40 Christians. Today there are over 400 churches with over 50,000 Christians.

This was NOT simply a conference, but **a working consultation** focused on confirming Ethné’s vision—*Peoples Joining Together to Glorify God Among All Peoples*—and fulfilling its three priorities:

1. **CELEBRATING** Great Commission progress among the Unreached Peoples
2. **ASSESSING** current opportunities and resources
3. **ACCELERATING** movements to Christ among every People

To enable this to happen, an on-site team of intercessors supported the event in prayer, manning an interactive prayer room, and reporting each evening what they were hearing from the Lord to the gathered assembly.

And everyone participated in one of eight ongoing **Strategy Groups**, where true multi-national collaboration is at the heart, with all nationalities serving as equal decision makers and implementers:

- **Prayer** – tying prayer efforts together with actual field strategy to give focus and create synergy around

specific needs at specific times. Regular updates are widely circulated through this Group.

- **Ethno Arts** – promoting appropriate indigenous artistic expressions (either originating from within or adopted) by each ethnê to know, worship, and testify about the True God. Work now underway to set up an EthnoArts organization in Latin America and beginning work among a number of previously Unreached Peoples in the region.
- **Church Planting Movements** (Holistic Gospel Movements) – collaborating to stimulate training and call out workers to Peoples where little is happening.
- **Frontier Crisis Response Network** – providing training and resources, connecting workers and networks, and adopting a strategy that links long-term holistic church planting efforts to the short-term disaster relief efforts. Trainings of teams are now being planned for a number of Latin American countries, not just to respond to local/regional disasters, but especially when it happens where there are Unreached Peoples.
- **Member/Pastoral Care** – committed to working with the wider Membercare Community to ensure quality member care resources are available to the mission community working among the Unreached People Groups. Monthly bulletins are put out for this purpose.
- **Information/Research** – working together internationally with the Missions Community to collect, coordinate, and disseminate accurate,

up-to-date information about the least reached peoples, hard-to-reach populations, and the needs of the church.

- **Young Leaders** – mobilizing, equipping, encouraging and enabling new generations to engage with Unreached Peoples and to help shape emerging strategies.
- **Training Interest Group** – a new initiative focused on collaborating in missionary candidate training.

In addition, significant conversations took place among regional networks like COMIBAM, the African Movement of National Initiatives (MANI), and the South East Asia Unreached Peoples Network (SEALINK) to facilitate cooperation in sending, training, and placing workers.

This Ethnê09 gathering was led by an international steering committee, and hosted by COMIBAM, the Iberoamerican Missions Network ([www.comibam.org](http://www.comibam.org)) so sessions were conducted in Spanish and English (and occasionally in French, Arabic, Malay, and Korean.). Each day's multi-cultural expressions of worship, led by team-members from Malaysia, The Philippines, Syria, Colombia, and the USA, included songs in English, Spanish, Arabic, Malay, Swahili, Turkish, Russian, Tagalog, French, and more.

The steering committee and convening group for the Ethnê movement are truly global. They include leaders from mission organizations and facilitators of partnerships including the Arabian Peninsula Network, Buddhist World Network

(SEANET), Central Asia Consultation, the Iberoamerican Missions Movement (COMIBAM), Francophone Africa Partnership, India Missions Association, Indonesian Peoples Network, International Partnership Associates, Korean World Mission Association, MEMP Partnership, Movement of African National Initiatives (MANI), NA Partnership, Philippine Missions Association (PMA), US Center for World Mission, Southeast Asia Unreached Peoples Network (SEALINK), Strategic Missions Partnerships (STAMP), Tentmakers International.

The next Ethnê family gathering, in three year's time, will be hosted by the India Mission Association (IMA) in Hyderabad **November 28 to December 2nd, 2012.**



**Ethnê** ([www.ethne.net](http://www.ethne.net)) is the official unreached people group (UPG) network for two global Christian movements, The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) Mission Commission and The Lausanne Committee on World Evangelization ●