

AGORA-NEWS

December 2008

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). The Mission Commission staff is launching a monthly newsletter, called **Agora**, directed primarily to the MC Associates but also sent to other mission leaders and available on the MC web page. **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 in Brazil: bekstrom@worlddevangelical.org

Agora is also available at our [website](#).



Read in this issue of **Agora**:

- Streams under an Oak... Musings
- MC Consultation in Thailand
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- New Executive Director at IIBET, Spain
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Streams under an Oak...Musings*

The year 2008 comes to an end and we look forward to the new year of 2009 with high expectations. For the Mission Commission the climax of this year was the consultation in Pattaya. The joy of meeting old and new friends, the sense of relevance in dedicating time for reflection on crucial missiological themes and the delight of seeing the enthusiasm in both existing and emerging networks and task forces are all indescribable and immeasurable feelings. As staff team and MC leadership we can only thank God for the privilege of working with such a diverse and powerful community of mission leaders. The MC is truly global and the richness of its constituency lays in the assembled experience, knowledge, initiative, resources and wisdom present and available in the national mission movements, both the older and newer.

One of these highly gifted and fruitful mission movements is the Singaporean. Guided by the MC Associate and researcher Valerie Lim, I had the opportunity to visit some of the mission organisations, theological seminaries, bible colleges and churches. The short but intensive stay gave a good picture of the potential of the Singaporean church for cross-cultural mission and the strategic role the City State plays in the Asian continent, and not least related to the Chinese context.

As we enter a new year, fresh opportunities and new challenges are ahead of us. As MC we anticipate a lot of work being done by the task forces and networks, following the objectives and plans discussed in Pattaya. The development and strengthening of national mission movements in the French speaking countries of Africa is certainly one of the main tasks for the MC staff during 2009. Other regions will also receive special attention such as the Caribbean and Asia. We look also forward to intensify the co-operation with EEMA in Europe and COMIBAM in Latin America.

We would like to thank all the MC Associates and MC Friends who have prayed for us and supported the MC during 2008. Without your participation and collaboration we would not be able to continue offering our services and maintaining good quality of our materials. May God bless you richly during the Christmas Season and in the new year of 2009.

Bertil Ekström

The Mission Commission Staff Team (from left to right): Bill Taylor (USA), Bertil Ekström (Brazil), Kees van der Wilden (Netherlands), David Ruiz (Guatemala) and Younoussa Djao (Ivory Coast)

WEA MISSION COMMISSION CONSULTATION "THAILAND 2008"

In the land of the Orchids the Mission Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance celebrated its 11th Global Consultation with the attendance of 250 mission and church leaders from over 50 nations.

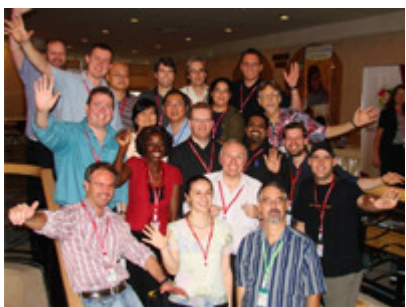
The MC convenes a global consultation every two or three years for mutual encouragement, fellowship and building of relationships, growth in the understanding of the missional enterprise around the globe, dealing with global issues and challenges, and planning the joint work and strategies, in order to become better equipped for the work.

This time the MC consultation focused primarily the missiological issues of Contextualisation, Mission and Spirituality, and Mission in the Context of Suffering, Violence, Persecution and Martyrdom. The general reflection of all participants and the specific missiological teams generated the core content for a new series of three missiological books based on the work done by the Global Missiology Task Force. These books will be published during the next three years.

The MC related Networks, Task Forces and Interest Groups dedicated time to evaluate, envision and plan their activities for the coming three to five years, providing services, research and materials to the national mission movements and the mission community worldwide.

Four new initiatives were launched during the consultation: the Continuum – a network of younger reflective practitioners; the Mission & Art Task Force; the Pastors and Church in Mission Task Force; and the Global Dialogue as a MC contribution to the current North-South Dialogue between mission leaders.

The five days in Pattaya, Thailand, gave all the participants a unique opportunity to listen to God and to each other, helping us all to discern the relevant issues for mission today, as well as the priorities for the MC collectively for the period 2009 to 2012.



"Continuum" was the name given to the Younger Leaders Task Force that was formed during the Consultation in Pattaya. Some "not-so-young-people" were also invited to the conversations and the celebration of the launching of the new MC task force.

Connections (website)

The latest issue of Connections is now available in print and has been sent to all the MCAs. The theme of the magazine is Mission and Contextualisation.

Connections and all its back issues are now also downloadable at the [Connections website](http://www.weaconnetions.com) (www.weaconnetions.com) and you have access to the digital articles!

ASIA CHRISTIAN WRITER'S CONFERENCE

October 16-19, 2009

Chiang Mai, Thailand

Coordinated by Ramon Rocha, who is the director of OMF publishers in the Philippines. The sponsor is Media Associates International. Inquiries should be directed to Ramon (ramon111@omflit.com).

RUDY GIRÓN IS INSTALLED AS THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF IIBET

The General Assembly of the Ibero American Institute of Cross Cultural Studies (IIBET), celebrated November 21-23 in Torrox Costa, province of Malaga, Spain, officially installed Dr. Rodolfo "Rudy" Girón as its new Executive Director and charged him with the responsibility of IIBET's training ministry of Ibero-American missionaries working in the Muslim world.

Another exiting highlight of the assembly was the appointment of Pedro Jones as IIBET's new Academic Director. Pedro, an experienced missionary and anthropologist with an M. Div. in Biblical languages, accepted the call to join this new team. IIBET was created a decade ago through the collaboration of some twenty missionary organizations working among Muslims. The hallmark of IIBET's training programs is its integral approach oriented towards academic and practical formation, which directly contributes to lessen the impact of one of the most harmful elements of cross-cultural missions, i.e. the early attrition from the field due to inadequate training.

The president of IIBET's board of directors, Miguel Juez, concluded that: "The spirit that permeated our consciences and hearts during the Assembly was to give the Lord the liberty and the opportunity to surprise us with all that He wants to do through IIBET, and also through those of us who believe He will show us greater things in IIBET's future."

Dr. Girón comes to IIBET with a wealth of experience in the missionary field. His formal education has concentrated in the areas of missions and education. As part of his fieldwork he has been the president of COMIBAM International, and as a missionary educator in Russia he founded the Eurasian Theological Seminary, as well as being the Director of Hispanic Education for the Church of God in the U.S.A.

At the end of the assembly the new Executive Director concluded, "As a group, we have redefined our vision and mission statements for the next 5 years. This refocuses our attention to the main objectives for the new plan; namely, the revision of the Institute's curriculum, the sharpening of an integral methodology of along with the starting of a process of accreditation and course recognition with other educational institutions, and giving especial attention to the strengthening of our cooperative relationships with IIBET's partner organizations."

Granada, Spain, November 2008

For more information contact: danieljohnson@iibet.org

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

Global Member Care Network – GMCN - www.globalmembercare.com/

Refugee Highway Partnership – RHP - refugeehighway.net/

Tentmakers International – TI - tentmakersinternational.com/

Interdev Partnership Associates - www.interdev.org/

Ethne - www.ethne.net/

Regional Mission Movements:

COMIBAM, Latin America – www.comibam.org

EEMA, Europe - www.europeanema.org/

MANI, Africa – www.maniafrica.com/

National Mission Movements

Africa: Nigeria Evangelical Missions Association – www.nematoday.org/index.php

WENSA, South Africa - www.wensa.org.za/

Asia:

Philippines Mission Association - www.cybermissions.org/pma/

Indian Mission Association – www.imaIndia.org

Singapore Centre for Evangelism and Missions - www.scem.info/

Japan Evangelical Missionary Association – www.jema.org

Japan Overseas Missions Association – www.joma.mydns.jp
National C. E. Alliance, Sri Lanka - www.nceasl.org/NCEASL/missions/home.php
Korean World Mission Association – kwma.org/eng/index.html

Europe:

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

Latin America:

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

North America:

Cross Global Link, USA – www.crossgloballink.org/
Mission Exchange, USA – themissionexchange.org/
Evangelical Fellowship of Canada - www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/

South Pacific:

Mission Interlink, New Zealand – www.missions.org.nz

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)

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