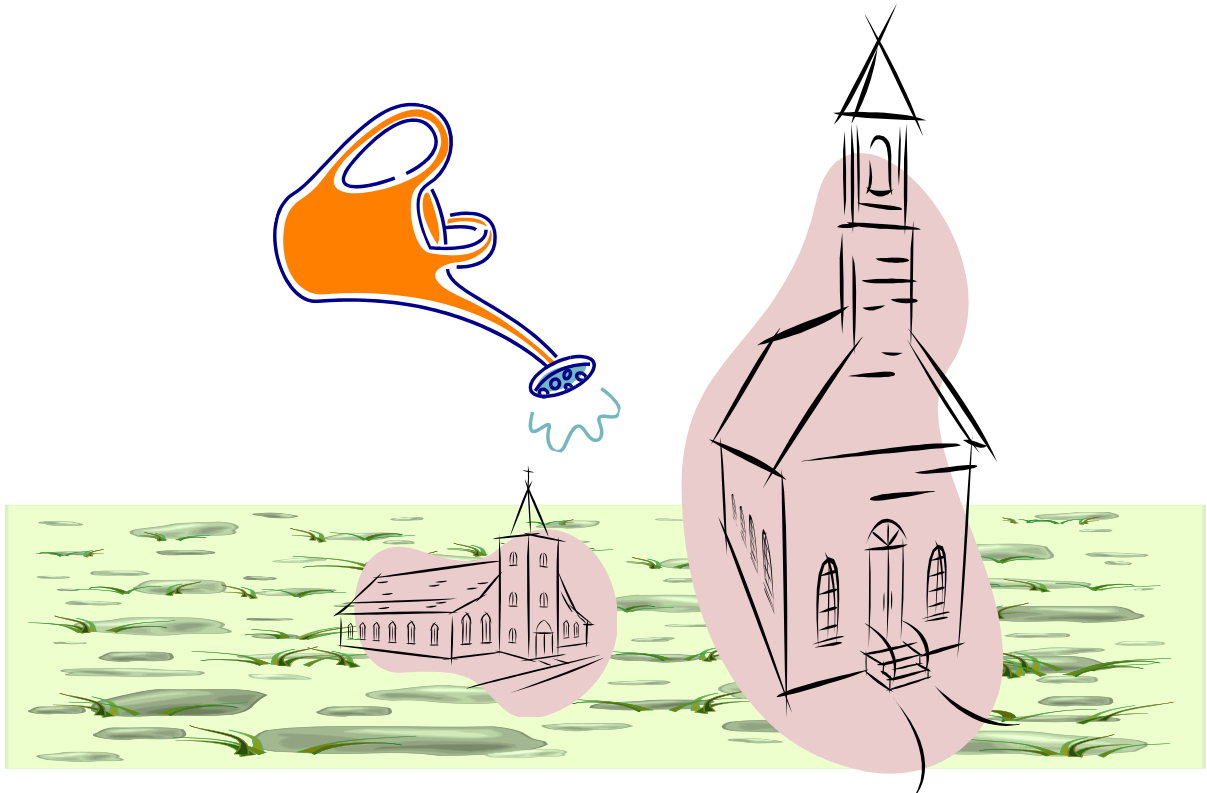


2012

Inter-American Division
Adventist Mission Department



**[PLANT A CHURCH, GROW A
CHURCH, EXPANDING GOD'S
KINGDOM]**

Inter American Division Adventist Mission

Church Planting Movement

University Student as Global Mission Pioneers in the Unions

Introduction

The Office of Adventist Mission in the Inter-American Division has decided to give greater emphasis to church planting. Church planting is defined as having five or more persons coming to Christ in baptism from an unentered area or among an unreached people group to become committed members of the Seventh-day Adventist church. The Inter-American Division wishes to plant new churches among 80% of the unreached people groups and unentered communities within its territory. By “*unreached*” and “*unentered*” we mean communities or people groups where there are not enough baptized Seventh-day Adventists capable of evangelizing the communities or people groups without assistance from other Seventh-day Adventist churches.

The need for church planting is enormous in the territory of Inter-American Division, therefore, the Office of Adventist Mission proposes to launch a Global Mission Church Planting Movement from 2012 to foster the emergence of new Seventh-day Adventist churches in unentered communities and among unreached people groups. The people comprising the church planting movement will consist of two percent of each local church membership. These persons will be known as Global Mission Pioneers. These pioneers will receive specialized training to become resident witnesses in unentered territory for a period of six months or one year to facilitate the emergence of a new church. The Global Mission Pioneers will be the frontline workers in the church planting movement. They will be responsible for entry strategies, receptive issues, demographic surveys, and assessment of the communities’ readiness for the gospel and also preparing new members for self-governance.

The Inter-American Division’s strategy also includes the enlisting, recruiting, and equipping of a cadre of university students to participate in short term church planting projects. These students will collaborate with the Global Mission Pioneers to facilitate the emergence of new churches in unentered communities and among unreached people. More details of the operation of the students in church planting will be provided later in this document.

The purpose of this document is to design a proposal which will source funding for the students’ church planting projects. Many students are willing to make the sacrifice for frontier mission, however, they lack the knowledge, skills and finances to do frontier mission. In this document, we seek to develop a compelling argument for financial assistance to students who wish to participate with God in planting new churches.

Mission Context

The Inter- American Division consists of twenty-one unions. These unions are scattered throughout approximately twenty-eight countries. It is estimated that the population of these countries combined range from 250 to 300 million people. These people come from diverse histories, cultures, languages and ethnicities. Some of major the people groups in the Inter-American Division are the Aztecs, Mayans, Amerindians, Hindus, Muslims, Chinese and Jews. These people can be considered as unreached in the Inter America Division. It is believed that there are approximately three thousand communities within the Inter-American Division with no visible Adventist presence in the form of either members or church buildings.

Missiological Problem

The church growth strategy of the Inter-American Division seems limited in its focus. At present, church growth occurs among people of similar culture, ethnicity, and language. There is need for more intentional, intercultural church growth. God’s mission seeks to reach people with the gospel in “every tribe, language, ethnicity and culture.” This unique and more challenging form of church growth requires time, persistency, long and short term global mission pioneers with knowledge and skills.

Goal

The Inter-American Division has decided to establish an Adventist presence in 65% of its unentered communities, and among its unreached people groups, to further expand God’s kingdom by 2015.

Mission Objectives

1. To identify and analyze the number of unentered communities and unreached peoples within IAD’s territory
2. To recruit and train a cadre of young people to serve as Global Mission Pioneers on short term and long church planting projects
3. To provide the avenues for Seventh-day Adventist universities to adopt a specific people group to pioneer church planting
4. To provide the opportunity for universities to engage in frontier and character developing ministries through church planting
5. To encourage an attitude of self-denial and self-sacrifice among students toward mission

MISSION PLAN:

Training

To achieve the goals and objectives, Inter-American Division will facilitate the training of Deans of Students Affairs from fourteen universities in its territory. This training will include skills training, recruiting, mobilization and organization of young people to participate in church planting projects in the inter-cultural contexts. The Office of Adventist Mission shall provide the Deans of SDA universities with 40 hours of skills training to enable them to prepare young people to become Global Mission Pioneers in short term and long church planning projects.

Church Planting Movement

The Inter -American Division proposes beginning a “One Hundred Students Church Planting Movement” to collaborate with Global Mission Pioneers from unions and conferences. It called a movement because students will be sent to various countries the Inter America Division to share Christ, and to establish the Adventist presence. It is important to note that this church planting movement may include more than one hundred students. The designation One hundred Students Church Planting Movement represents the name of the movement and not necessarily the number of students being sent to participate in church planting projects.

Church Planting in Unentered Communities and Unreached People Groups

The potential for church planting in Inter America Division is enormous, and with the establishing of the One Hundred Students Church Planting Movement to assist unions and conferences, it is envisioned that a minimum of three hundred new churches will be planted per year from 2012 to 2015. The deployment period for students may be for two or more weeks. The primary objective is the students’ collaboration with union or conference to plant a new church in the unentered territory as identified by the union.

Planting a new church requires intensive field preparation, therefore prior to the arrival of the students, the local conference will be responsible for preparing the people to receive the gospel. The issue of receptivity is critical in church planting, since the state of readiness of a community to receive the gospel increases or shortens the time it takes plant a new church. A new church can be defined as the outcome of a faithful collaboration between human effort and Divine power. An unentered community should receive a minimum of twelve months of steady field work prior to arrival of the students in that community.

Church Planting Resources

The Inter-American Division is proposing giving to the students some financial assistance for the purpose of acquiring religious materials such as Bibles, sermons booklets, health DVD's, books for children, and other such material needed for engaging in the church planting project. It may be possible for each student participating in the One Hundred Church Planting Movement to receive four to five hundred dollars for the acquisition of religious materials. We consider the financial assistance to each student an important contribution since each student will be responsible for his/her air ticket, food and accommodation during deployment. The sending union of each university is expected to give a sum of US 2, 000 to assist the students with the church planting projects. This amount is reflected in the budget outline.

Justification

Church planting is a Biblical mandate. It is God's intention that people come to Christ from every tribe, language, ethnicity, culture and community. This is necessary because sin has pervaded and affected mankind everywhere. Paul argues that one man's sin brought death upon all. However, he contends further that one Man's obedience provides salvation for all people in every place (Romans 5: 12, 19). Church planting helps us to see the world from God's perspective, a perspective of universality. God sees the whole picture and not just part of the picture, therefore, He calls us to engage in a universal mission to every tribe, nation, people, culture and community.

The One Hundred Students Church Planting Movement also seeks to address the need of youth for dynamic spiritual experiences, innovation, adventures, and challenges. The opportunity provided will create occasions for life transforming experiences. It is by participating in God's mission to the world that the mission itself transforms the lives of the students.

It is observed that many of the unreached people groups are divided into various tribes and linguistic patterns. This makes doing frontier mission in Inter-American Division a challenge and adventure for the youth.

How the One Hundred Students Church Planting Movement will Operate

All students desirous of participating in the One hundred Students Church Planting Movement may register their names with the Department of Students' Affairs of their respective universities. Students should seek to enroll in the church planting movement during the first semester of the school year. This allows enough time for the students to receive twenty hours of informal training in intercultural ministries, principles of church planting, and general awareness of the church planting contexts in which they will work.

It will be the responsibility of the universities to secure insurance coverage for each student registered to participate in the church planting movement. This is of critical importance. Each

student should take a personal interest in ensuring that adequate insurance is secured for him or her prior to leaving for mission trip outside of his/her union territory.

The unions' mission directors/coordinators will, in collaboration with the universities, facilitate training, mobilization and organization the students. The universities shall communicate to the unions' mission directors the need for assistance in training, finance, and all relevant issues related to preparation for the mission trip.

The Mission directors of unions will then communicate with Inter-American Division Mission director, on issues relating to the need for demographic data, financial assistance, assistance in training of students, arrival dates to visiting country and visa information. However, there may be times when university personnel could speak directly with the Adventist Mission Director of the Inter- American Division, in consultation with the Union's Adventist Mission director.

Measurements of Success of One Hundred Students Church Planting Movement

1. The students' competencies in the application of knowledge, skills and attitudes to church planting.
2. The degree of receptivity to the gospel of unreached communities or people groups
3. The frequency and efficiency with which new churches are planted in unentered communities.
4. The transforming effects of church planting on the spiritual lives the students

Mission Project Time Line

The Inter- American Division proposes an initial three years (2012-2015) for operation of the One Hundred Students Church Planting Movement in its territory. However, each year the Adventist Mission Committee of the IAD will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of this church planting movement.

Project Coordinator: Samuel Teleamque, Adventist Mission Director,
Inter-American Division

Mission Project Budget

| Sources of Income: | US\$ |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| UNIONS (21 union x US2000.00) | |
| IAD | |
| GC | |
| Total Income | |
| <i>Expenditure Items:</i> | |
| Bibles | |
| Sermons | |
| DVD'S | |
| Health Material | |
| Children Material | |
| Community Projects | |
| Miscellaneous | |
| Total Expenditure | |