

## **FROM SEOUL TO CAPE TOWN – A MISSIONARY JOURNEY**

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### **Introduction**

#### **Romans 15: 17-21 – The Pauline Journey and the title**

- Seoul – where the MC started
- Cape Town – where we are now
- A Journey – tells the story of the MC
- Missionary – Mission is our vocation

### **Historical Review**

#### **I. Mission in the Birth and Re-organising of WEA**

- In 1846 the Evangelical Alliance was formed during a gathering in London attended by 800 Christians representing 11 countries from Europe and North America.
- From the beginning the Evangelical Alliance had an emphasis on evangelisation and mission alongside the desire for unity of the Christians.
- In 1912 the name was changed to World's Evangelical Alliance.
- Some important mission conferences had been held in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, such as Edinburgh 1910, Panama 1916, Jerusalem 1928, Madras 1938.
- In 1951, 105 years after the foundation of the Evangelical Alliance, The World Evangelical Fellowship was founded, based on the former Alliance. This time the gathering was in the Netherlands with 21 countries represented.
- Four commissions were formed in 1951: Evangelism, Missionary, Literature and Christian Action.
- The chairman of the Missionary Commission was Dr Clyde W. Taylor of USA and the commission had the purpose of "promoting closer coordination and cooperation between missionary societies in different countries".
- A new leadership took over in 1975 when Waldron Scott became the first fulltime executive secretary. Now there were the Theological Commission, the Missions Commission, the Communications Commission and the Women's Commission.
- Scott held the position of General Secretary until 1982 when David Howard was invited to the replace him.

#### **II. The Mission Commission**

##### **1. 1975 to 1979 – The Emergence of Missions Movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America**

- 1975: Seoul, South Korea: Dr Chun Chae Ok (S. Korea) First Executive Director.
- 1977: Bombay, India
- 1979: Bad Liebenzell, Germany: Theodore Williams becomes the new Executive Director

##### **2. 1980 to 1985 – Bridging North and South – Old and New Sending**

- 1982: Bangalore, India
- 1984: Tom Chandler becomes the administrative assistant to Theodore Williams.
- 1985: Jos, Nigeria – the formation of NEMA

### **3. 1986 to 1989 - Leadership Transition and Missionary Training**

- 1986: Singapore: Dr William Taylor, new Executive Director
- An empty file
- Links to Latin America
- 1987: I COMIBAM – Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- Missionary Training
- 1989: Manila, Philippines – Consultation on Missionary Training

### **4. 1990 to 1992 – Cooperation and Strategic Alliances**

- 1992: New staff: Dr Jonathan Lewis (Argentina/USA)
- 1992: Manila, Philippines – Consultation on Strategic Alliances in Global Ministry. Dr David Lee appointed as MC chair.

### **5. 1993 to 1997 – ReMAP I and National Mission Movements**

- 1994: The ReMAP I study (Reducing Missionary Attrition Project)
- 1994: Pasadena, USA: Seminar on Missionary Training
- 1995: New Zealand: Regional Consultation for Missionary Training
- 1996: All Nations Christian College, Easneye, Ware, UK: ReMAP I Consultation.
- 1997: Vancouver, Canada – Consultation on National Mission Movements.
- 1997: II COMIBAM – Acapulco, Mexico

### **6. 1998 to 2001 – Global Missiology and Great Commission Roundtable**

- 1999: Great Commission Roundtable
- 1999: Foz do Iguassu, Brazil – Consultation on Global Missiology
- 2000: New staff: Bertil Ekstrom (Brazil/Sweden)
- 2001: Port Dickson, Malaysia - Consultation co-convened by Great Commission Roundtable.

### **7. 2002 to 2006 – Globalisation and Re-envisioning of the MC**

- 2002: Hoddesdon, UK – GLC – First steps to re-envisioning of MC. Dr K. Rajendran was appointed the new Chairman of the Global Leadership Council
- 2002: The first issue of *Connections* – the MC Journal was published in October
- 2003: Vancouver, Canada – Consultation on the Impact of Globalisation on Mission
- 2004: The Netherlands – GLC – Completing most of MC Re-envisioning
- 2004: New staff: Kees van der Wilden (The Netherlands)
- 2004: The ReMAP II research
- 2006: Cape Town, South Africa – Global Mission Issues Summit
- A packed file

## **The Spirit of the Mission Commission**

What are the main characteristics of the Mission Commission evidenced in the history? What are the core values that have permeated the development of the MC?

### **Our Core Values**

*We value Evangelical, Trinitarian missiology, grace-characterized relationships and mutual accountability, grass roots needs-analysis and strategic vision, churches, mission agencies and training programs, collegiality and servanthood, reflective practitioners and forward thinking.*

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- 1. Evangelical and Trinitarian missiology**
- 2. Grace-characterised relationships and mutual accountability**
- 3. Grass-roots needs-analysis and strategic vision**
- 4. Churches, Mission Agencies and Training Programs**
- 5. Collegiality and Servanthood**
- 6. Reflective Practitioners and Forward Thinking**

### **Conclusion and Challenges for the MC**

- Continue to be relevant to OSCs and NSCs (Modern, Post-modern and Post-post-modern)
- Keep our passion, for Jesus, for his Kingdom and for his Mission.
- Reach the unreached – Disciple the nations
- A meeting place and a therapeutic community of leaders
- Inclusive, but not without a profile
- Truly global, gender balance and younger leaders
- Reflective practitioners – an impossible combination?

⇒ **We have a mandate!**

**“To the only wise God be glory for ever through Jesus Christ!” (Rom 15.25, 26)**