

WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES

Geoff Tunnicliffe

- **I Chronicles 12:32-33**
 - *“Men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do—200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command; men of Zebulun, experienced soldiers prepared for battle with every type of weapon, to help David with undivided loyalty...”*
- **Current Global Scene**
- **Increasing Globalization**
- **Increasing Clash of Civilizations**
- **Increasing persecution**
- **200 million Christians worldwide suffer persecution for their faith!**
- **Increasing secularism**
 - This secularist approach, seeks to accommodate religious traditions by affording public expression to none.
 - It is the expression of an understanding of what religion ought to be and is a form of religious intolerance – religion in its public expression is not welcome.
- **Increasing post-modernism**
- **Increasing gap between poor and rich**
- **Increasing impact of HIV/AIDS**
- **Impact of HIV/AIDS**
 - 40 million people were living with HIV/AIDS worldwide
 - 5 million people were newly affected with HIV/AIDS last year (including 800,000 children less than 15 years old)
 - More than 20 million people have died since 1981
- **Increasing number of children at risk**
- **World Evangelical Alliance**
 - Is a global network of seven regional and 127 national evangelical alliances, 104 international member organizations and six WEA commissions serving the worldwide church.
- **Increasing number of Christians non-Western countries**
- **Vision**
 - The WEA envisions the church joined together in every community around the world effectively living out and proclaiming the good news of Jesus. These allied churches seek transformation, holiness and justice for individuals, families, communities, peoples and nations.

- **Foundational to our vision is Integral Mission**
 - Integral mission or holistic transformation is the proclamation and demonstration of the gospel. It is not simply that evangelism and social involvement are to be done alongside each other.
- **Foundational to our vision is Integral Mission**
 - *Rather, in integral mission our proclamation has social consequences as we call people to love and repentance in all areas of life. And our social involvement has evangelistic consequences as we bear witness to the transforming grace of Jesus Christ.*
- **Mission**
 - World Evangelical Alliance exists to foster Christian unity and to provide a worldwide identity, voice and platform to Evangelical Christians. Seeking empowerment by the Holy Spirit, they extend the Kingdom of God by proclamation of the Gospel to all nations and by Christ-centered transformation within society.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PROVIDE A WORLDWIDE IDENTITY, VOICE AND PLATFORM FOR EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS?

- ***ENGAGE...Identity for Global Credibility***
 - Since 1850, the World Evangelical Alliance has provided a means of global identity for evangelical Christians.
- ***ENGAGE...Identity for Global Credibility***
 - WEA provides a sense of belonging to a global body that gives increased viability and visibility to those associating with it.
- **Identity**
 - WEA has official status with the UN
 - Invited by Kofi Annan to convene 30 prominent evangelical leaders to dialogue on global poverty and other issues
 - Requested by the World Bank to send a representative to serve on its advisory Board to provide counsel on policies
- **Identity**
 - Develop best practices for evangelicals for public and civic engagement
 - Accept invitation by the Kazakhstan Evangelical Alliance to speak with the President of Kazakhstan on their behalf

- **Identity**
 - Assist the newly established Iraqi Evangelical Alliance gain functionality and relevance
 - Increase our involvement with evangelical Christians in Israel, the Palestinian Authority and other parts of the Middle East to better serve their needs
- ***INSPIRE...Platform for Global Networking***
 - When we say that WEA provides a platform, we mean a place. WEA acts as a convenor and as a hub for gathering and disseminating information.
 - WEA network bodies continue forming strategic partnerships for maximum impact. WEA serves to provide neutral ground for learning, understanding, and resource sharing.
- **Platform**
 - WEA helped start “Churches Together,” a joint-venture of churches committed to fostering grassroots, African church based ministry address HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa
 - Launched the Micah Challenge in 18 countries to deepen evangelicals engagement with the poor and to challenge UN nation leaders to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. 20 more national campaigns in development.
- **Platform**
 - Draw in more worldwide evangelicals into the WEA network (from N. Africa & Middle East)
 - Build capacity of evangelical alliances worldwide by equipping them with information technology capabilities
- **Platform**
 - Launch “Stop the Traffik”, a global campaign to reduce human trafficking and to uphold the human rights of those vulnerable.
 - Convene a global gathering of mission leaders in South Africa to address mission impact in the 21st century
- ***INFORM...Voice of Global Advocacy***
 - WEA is the global voice of evangelicals to world institutions and governments, world media, and world faith bodies.
 - It brings biblical truth to issues that influence and impact the global body of evangelicals.

- **INFORM...Voice of Global Advocacy**
 - Persecuted, marginalized, and oppressed peoples need support and advocacy at the international level. WEA amplifies their voices and empowers the global evangelical communities to engage.
- **Voice**
 - Facilitated the International Day of Prayer for the persecuted church, 200,000 churches participated in 2005
 - We are involved in “the First Step Forum,” where government officials, media personnel, and other professionals address critical human rights and religious liberty issues in countries that are resistant and intentionally hostile to the Gospel
- **Voice**
 - Accept the invitation to participate in the peace talks between the Colombian Government and the guerillas
 - Continue meeting with G8 leaders, next meeting will be Germany 2007

World Evangelical Alliance

“One Body. One Voice..”

John 17:23