**MISSION DIRECTORS FORUM**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**MARCH 24-25, 2015**

**FREE METHODIST HEADQUARTERS IN INDIANAPOLIS**

The third annual meeting of the Mission Directors of the GWA covenant groups convened in Indianapolis at the Free Methodist headquarters. The group was graciously hosted by Deb Miller and Brad Button. The agenda and attendees list is attached along with three papers that were presented. Two guests were present from One Mission Society and World Gospel Mission.

After a brief time of sharing updates and getting to know one another, Bishop David Kendall shared a synopsis of the recent kidnapping and release of FMWM missionary Phyllis Sorter. This highlighted for all the need to have protocols in place to deal with the unthinkable and the need for outside experts that understand the dynamics of working with a church, distraught family members, the press and US and foreign government law agencies. Significant discussion was shared around this topic with most saying they felt ill prepared to deal with this type of crisis either here or abroad. The suggestion was made that this would be a worthy topic for exploration with GWA members. Bishop Kendall and the Free Methodist World Missions are in the process of developing protocols and will be willing to share with all.

After the break, Brad gave leadership to the discussion of the three papers which had been prepared concerning the sending of missionaries. There was lively discussion with the following highlights: the pace of change vs the pace of learning; what are valid metrics in our day and age?; what does it mean to be a catalyst organization in terms of world missions?; what is the new role of collaboration with indigenous partners?; how does change occur in each of our respective groups who are organized differently?; how do you relate to the local church in today’s market? Dennis Jackson of the Wesleyan Church Global Partners presented their journey of refocus and shared materials.

The group adjourned to enjoy dinner at the Abyssinia Ethiopian Restaurant.

The group began with devotions on the second day with the theme of what does it mean to be a senior spiritual leader?

Throughout the two days books, resource agencies, and best practices were shared by the participants. Our two guests(OMS, WGM) provided information about their respective organizations and processes. The second day amplified what was started on the first day concerning deploying missionaries and communications with the local church.

The local church was affirmed as the place missions really begins. Most felt that the national mission organizations were playing catch up in developing a quality and effective relationship with local churches. It was stated many local churches of size have ignored the national connection. The current plan of the Wesleyan Church is seeking to reestablish this vital connection through their Amplified Mission(amplifying local church mission for global transformation). Detail materials were provided for each attendee.

An evaluation form was distributed for feedback about the accommodations, food, content, and process.

Dates for future significant events:

Ethnic Ministries Summit-Atlanta-Intercultural Fusion:Compelled to love all nations-April 16-18, 2015([www.ethnicamerica.com](http://www.ethnicamerica.com))

Missio Nexus-Orlando, Florida, September 23-26, 2015.

CEO’s of Mission Organizations-December 8, 2015, Wesleyan Church Hdqts.

The group strongly affirmed this annual meeting and chose the dates of March 10-11, 2015. Dennis Jackson will provide oversight along with a few other team members for this next meeting.

Submitted by

Dr. Ronald V. Duncan