**Global Wesleyan Alliance Mission Directors Virtual Forum**

**April 21, 2021, 1:00pmEST**

Participants: David Mann-Missionary Church; Mike Holbrook-CCCU; Mike Tipton-CCCU; Gerald Coates-Free Methodist; Dennis Jackson-The Wesleyan Church; Verne Ward-The Nazarene Church; Andrew Gale-Church of God; Mark Surbrook-Church of God (Holiness); and Ron Duncan

Agenda:

1.  Check in with each other about the impact of the pandemic on ministries.

2.  Discuss any issues you might want to share with us.

3.  What national or global issues are impacting your ministries?

4.  What new resources have you found that assist you in your mission?

5.  What is your desire or interest in a face-to-face meeting in 2022?

Main Ideas shared:

1. Finances for most groups have increased during the pandemic period. Two groups indicated a lower response.
2. Online learning and training for leaders and missionaries has increased and shown great potential. Free Methodist have over 900 leaders in South America taking an 18-module course.
3. Some new things happening monthly online regional prayer meetings and global prayer meetings once a quarter (Free Methodist).
4. Indigenous National leaders have stepped up and taken on responsibility and done very well.
5. Conversations around adaptive models of work both within the office and around the world. Many positive results have occurred which will become part of the future dialogue about the role of travel.

Adaptive work models impact program staff (those that did travel substantially) and administrative staff (those that stay in office most of the time) differently. Administrative staff like in person in office better than virtual.

One of the questions to be explored is how to develop quality relationships with new staff who are coming on board during the virtual framework?

1. Recruitment or Mobilization of new persons for missions continue to be a challenge on several fronts. Individuals or couples being called by God struggle with raising funds since itineration has been limited.

Once identified candidates still have to deal with travel restrictions and Covid protocols which are different for each country.

1. Political turmoil in numerous countries has complicated missional activity. Yet some of the countries are reporting significant conversions and baptisms.
2. Generally speaking, a great deal of creativity has emerged during the pandemic and provided a pause for reflection and prayer. Dennis Jackson was able to take a time to Forward Focus. Out of this period of time he came to five foci:
   1. Prayer and Fasting – (He recommends the book “Revival Starts Here.”)
   2. Marketplace Multipliers(marketplacemultipliers.com) is a new emphasis from the Wesleyan Church. I strongly encourage you to go to the website and view the launch.
   3. Affirm God will guide those he has called globally.
   4. Multiply Leaders
   5. Grow Partners in ministry
3. Technology usage has increased and applications which are used the most are Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Slack. Some groups have provided funding for employees to be able to set up a home office.
4. During this pandemic time, groups are refocusing on the basics of the Great Commission and prayer as well as supporting colleagues in ministry. The impact of isolationism in a communal environment is seen as a threat. Some groups have experienced cuts in the number of staff, but the adjustments have seemingly had minimal consequence on ministry objectives.
5. Quotable phrase: “God is taking the walls off the church.” The church has been forced to enter the community or marketplace which it had not anticipated
6. Questions to be pondered:
   1. How do you work with para church organizations when their emphasis is different than yours?
   2. How do you answer those who are opposed to adaptive models of work because they believe relationships cannot be cultivated in such environments?
7. Some groups are launching development teams to assist in the raising of funds for missionaries.
8. Major Challenges in the Next 12 months
   1. In the US, the attitude of American Church toward the rest of the world.
   2. Polarization of society in the US and around the world.
   3. Facing the pandemic in an uneven way. US has resources many countries facing dire circumstances.
9. The summary of where the GWA has missional activity by country is just waiting the response from one group and the list will then be shared with the total group.

The group was polled as to the desire to conduct an in-person meeting in 2022. All were in agreement this would be desirable. An idea was floated to make the meeting an international event such as joining with one or more of the GWA members at one of their continent training events.

The meeting ended with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Duncan

Executive Director GWA