



Tokyo 2010 Declaration

Making Disciples of Every People in Our Generation

The following is an excerpt from the full declaration, which is available at www.gnms.net

We, representatives of evangelical global mission structures, being intent on fulfilling the ultimate objective of the Great Commission, have gathered in Tokyo May 11-14, 2010 at this Global Mission Consultation to make the following declaration. We set forth this declaration in obedience to Christ's final command, as a means of calling Christ-followers everywhere to whole-heartedly embrace and earnestly engage in "making disciples of every people in our generation"....

Our Responsibility

Because of the reality of mankind's dire need and God's gracious remedy, Jesus left with His followers the missional priority of making disciples of every people (Mt. 28:18-20). By this mandate we acknowledge both the breadth of the unfinished task — all peoples — and the depth of the task — making disciples, as its focus.

We recognize the breadth of our task as geographical, by going "into all the world" (Mk. 16:15); as ethnical, by engaging "all peoples" (Mt. 28:19; Lk. 24:49); and as individual by proclaiming the gospel to "every creature" (Mk. 16:15).

Furthermore, we recognize that the depth of the task contains three essentials that comprise aspects in discipling peoples (Mt. 28:19-20):

- *Penetration* ("go"): making a priority of going to those who have had little or no exposure to the gospel. Messengers go and encounter non-believers by way of personal encounters, broadcasts, podcasts, printed material, recordings, electronic communications, or any other innovative means used as a channel of penetrating witness. Thus, the importance of the ministry of evangelizing.

- *Consolidation* ("baptizing"): gathering new believers into a relationship with Jesus and other believers, which is evidenced by the identifying rite of baptism. To conserve the fruit of evangelism and then be able to systematically disciple believers takes a local body of believers living in corporate harmony. Thus, the importance of the ministry of establishing churches.
- *Transformation* ("teaching to obey"): teaching Christ-followers to observe His commands with the outcome of transformed lives. The new believer's worldview must be adjusted to a biblical worldview; his lifestyle changed to increasingly conform to the image of Christ; and his ethical conduct progressively marked by biblical morals. Ideally, this results in individuals applying the gospel of the kingdom to every sphere and pursuit of life — from government to economics, from education to health, and from science to creation care. As a consequence whole communities, cultures and countries benefit from the transforming power of the gospel. Thus, the importance of the ministry of teaching.

Finishing the Task

Although none dare predict when the task of making disciples will be brought to completion, we leave Tokyo cognizant of two realities:

1. We are closer now to finishing the task than at any time in modern history.
2. God has entrusted this generation with more opportunities and resources to complete the task than any previous one. We have more mission-minded churches, more sending structures and bases, more missionaries, more material resources, more funding, more and better technology, more information and data, a deeper

understanding of the task, and a clearer focus of our responsibility than previous generations. God will require much of our generation.

However, we caution that all these advantages must be matched with a corresponding will to serve and *sacrifice*, coupled with genuine reliance upon the Holy Spirit. We acknowledge that we are engaged in spiritual warfare in which the presence and empowering of the Holy Spirit is essential (Acts 1:8). We give evidence of our reliance on God and His Spirit through frequent and fervent prayer on behalf of the world, the work and the workers (Jn. 17:20-21; Col. 4:3-4; 1 Th. 5:17).

Our Pledge

Therefore, as representatives of this generation's global mission community, we pledge to obey the Great Commission. We covenant together to use all that God has entrusted to us in this obedience. We will seek to know where people are unreached, overlooked, ignored, or forgotten. We will pray for the Holy Spirit to give strength and guidance as we join with others in changing that neglect, to love and make disciples in the way of the Cross.

We confess that we have not always valued each other or each other's work. We repent of those wrongs and will endeavor to bring an end to competition where it exists, and reconcile where there is hurt, misunderstanding and mistrust. Furthermore, we will endeavor to recognize that each part of the Body has its very own purpose, whether risking their very lives to show God's passion for the salvation of others, or supporting those who lead us forward, or caring for those who quietly support, or fervently praying that His will be done throughout the whole earth. We will respect all mission-engaging individuals and groups as special vessels for God's glory, each endowed with abilities that extend His Kingdom in multiple ways.

Finally, we recognize that finishing the task will demand effective cooperative efforts of the entire global body of believers. To facilitate cooperation and on-going coordination between mission structures worldwide, we agree to the necessity of a global network of mission structures. With this in mind, we leave Tokyo pledging cooperation with one another, and all others of like faith, with the singular goal of "making disciples of every people in our generation." f

Signatories of the Tokyo 2010 Declaration

Global Mission Structures

- Ethne to Ethne
- Global Network of Mission Structures
- Globe Serve
- Lausanne Committee For World Evangelization
- Muslim Unreached Peoples Network
- Nomadic Peoples Network
- Third World Mission Association
- World Evangelical Alliance – Theological Commission
- World Evangelical Alliance – Mission Commission

Regional Mission Structures

- Asia Mission Association
- COMIBAM International (pending ratification)
- Evangelical Association of the Caribbean
- Evangelical Missiological Society of US and Canada
- CrossGlobal Link of North America
- MANI (Movement of African National Initiatives)
- SAMA Link
- SEA Link
- SEA Net

National Mission Structures

- AMTB - Associação de Missões Transculturais Brasileiras (Brazil)
- Ghana Evangelical Missions Association
- India Missions Association
- Japan Evangelical Missionary Association
- Japan Overseas Missions Association
- Korean World Missions Association
- Nigeria Evangelical Missions Association
- Philippine Missions Association
- Singapore Centre for Global Mission
- Swedish Evangelical Alliance
- The Mission Exchange, USA
- AFCM-OWM (USA)