

## The Cascade Commentary An Occasional Paper

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Cascade Knowledge  
Resources

### Great Progress toward Reaching the Lost through Cooperation

With all of the shaking happening in the Middle East and the political intrigue in the United States leading up to the election just one year from now, one does not hear very much about the continuing march to reach the world with the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are some very significant initiatives being undertaken that are multiplying the capacity of Christian movements throughout the world to learn and be motivated to fully join in their responsibility to “finish the task” of reaching the world for Christ.

Certainly there are serious challenges facing the Western economies, but there are countries where the economies are strengthening more than ever before. We call these countries “developing economies.” Some of these are wide open for evangelization; others require “creative access and methods.”

Even though the opposition is great, the opportunities to make advances for the sake of the Kingdom are absolutely unprecedented in the history of the Church. These are truly marvelous days to be alive and see such tremendous things happening in a spirit of willing cooperation.

Our missionary team at **Go To Nations** is committed to doing our part to take advantage of the opportunities that exist at this time to evangelize receptive peoples. There have been so many people accepting Christ in the past two decades that the numbers are difficult to comprehend. Could this be the times spoken of by the Prophets that there would be a great ingathering into the Kingdom?

Our president, **Dr. Jerry Williamson**, developed a unique program called “**Global Pathway**” to focus on training pastors and leaders to help local congregations become enthusiastic Great Commission churches. This tool has been translated into Russian, Spanish and Portuguese and training seminars have been conducted in many locations in the U.S., Russia, Latin America and the Philippines, with many more invitations that are not yet scheduled.

This training has caused churches in many locations at home and abroad to become more impassioned to join the global movement of partnership in the Gospel for reaching the world for Christ in our generation. It is through empowering and envisioning the

leaders from the “Emerging Christian Nations” that they are being motivated to join as full partners in global evangelization.

Information is available at the website: [www.GoToNations.org](http://www.GoToNations.org) or by calling the office at 904-398-6559 Monday – Thursday.

The following information highlights the Billion Soul Campaign to unite pastors and leaders together for the cause of planting 5 million Church congregations.

## History of the Billion Soul Networks

Dr. Bill Bright, the late cofounder of the Global Pastors Network and founder of Campus Crusade for Christ International (CCCI), cast the vision of reaching one billion souls for Christ and planting five million new churches. After his homegoing in 2003, a leadership team determined to commemorate the legacy of this remarkable man, who used written, spoken and filmed words to help lead more people to Christ than anyone since the Apostle Paul, and who grew a simple campus evangelistic effort into the largest ministry in the world.

On August 19, 2004, a global conference call brought world leaders to agree to work together toward fulfilling Dr. Bright’s remarkable vision. On December 7-8, 2004, 65 world leaders including Avery Willis came together for the Bill Bright Initiative held at CCCI in Orlando, and adopted the vision of Five Million New Churches for a One Billion Soul Harvest as a worthy goal.

When the meetings concluded, Global Pastors Network Chairman John Maxwell remarked, “This is the largest global thrust in Church history.” This global Initiative later took on the name, the “Billion Soul Campaign.”

Campus Crusade for Christ founder Bill Bright dreamed of winning 1 billion converts and starting 5 million new churches in the coming decade. Today it's a vision being carried out by two ministries that, though separate, share a few intriguing commonalities.

Before his death in 2003, Bright formed the Global Pastors Network (GPN) with James O. Davis, founder of Cutting Edge International. The two spearheaded a leadership network that uniquely cut through denominational lines and united thousands of evangelistic-minded pastors across the globe. Under the umbrella of what became known as the Billion Soul

Initiative, the GPN sought to assist those church leaders through training and networking—all for the ultimate goal of winning souls.

In January 2007, Davis stepped down as GPN's president and shortly after formed a similar initiative called Second Billion. GPN quickly named a successor, Mark Anderson of Youth With a Mission (YWAM), and later that year announced a new branding on its soul-winning emphasis: The Call2All.

Along with the comparable names, marketing schemes and campaigns, both groups sponsored kick-off events during the same week. GPN's North American Congress, included such high-profile leaders as Foursquare President Jack Hayford, YWAM founder Loren Cunningham, evangelist Luis Palau and Graham Power of the Global Day of Prayer.

Meanwhile, Second Billion's Synergize! conference convened at Mount Paran Church of God with 35-plus speakers such as Ukraine pastor and initiative co-chair Sunday Adelaja, futurist Leonard Sweet, Church of God in Christ, Bishop Charles Blake and the late Pastor Billy Joe Daugherty from Tulsa.

### **Gathering for Global Change**

Indeed, despite high-profile speakers and participants in attendance, the gathering focused on small-group discussions of evangelism methods with a goal of uniting leaders for a common cause and creating a more targeted plan for fulfilling the Great Commission.

Among nearly 200 denominations and organizations participating in GPN's Billion Soul Initiative are such groups as the Assemblies of God, Foursquare International, YWAM and Every Home for Christ. Anderson says the Call2All aims to rally churches to engage their nations through prayer, fasting, witnessing, discipleship and caring for the poor.

To help those churches and other participants in refining their missions strategies, GPN is using a world-mapping system currently being developed by YWAM. "We have to know who the unreached are and where they are," Anderson says. "If you study missions, we have incredible overlap. Yet there are 2.7 billion people who don't have access to the gospel."

Jim Scott, Foursquare vice president and chief operating officer, says the network fits with his group's historical support of interdenominational, global evangelism.

"Missionaries, evangelists and organizational leaders all want to help complete the Great Commission," says Davis, who claims 133,000 churches and partners as part of his network. "We cannot do this using the methods of a bygone era. We need to know what is working ... today."

That may be one of the reasons Davis recruited Adelaja to help co-chair the initiative. The Nigerian-born pastor has seen phenomenal success since starting a church in Kiev, Ukraine, in 1994.

Since then, Adelaja has been on the receiving end of materials and programs from U.S. ministries. However, he believes Ukraine's soul-winning model that has seen 2 million conversions in the last 13 years can be useful to the rest of the world.

"Instead of a 'West to the Rest' approach, our movement has a 'Best to the Rest' approach," Adelaja says. "Biblical principles are transferable, so what has worked in Ukraine can work anywhere and in any culture."

### **All About Souls**

The existence of two groups with identical goals doesn't bother some participants. A few leaders, such as Hayford, have endorsed both. Douglas LeRoy, assistant world missions director of the Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.), says his denomination is participating in both networks. "There are 2 billion people who still haven't heard about Christ," says LeRoy, Second Billion's co-chair of the unreached peoples taskforce. "Any initiative focused on reaching those groups—our churches respond to that."

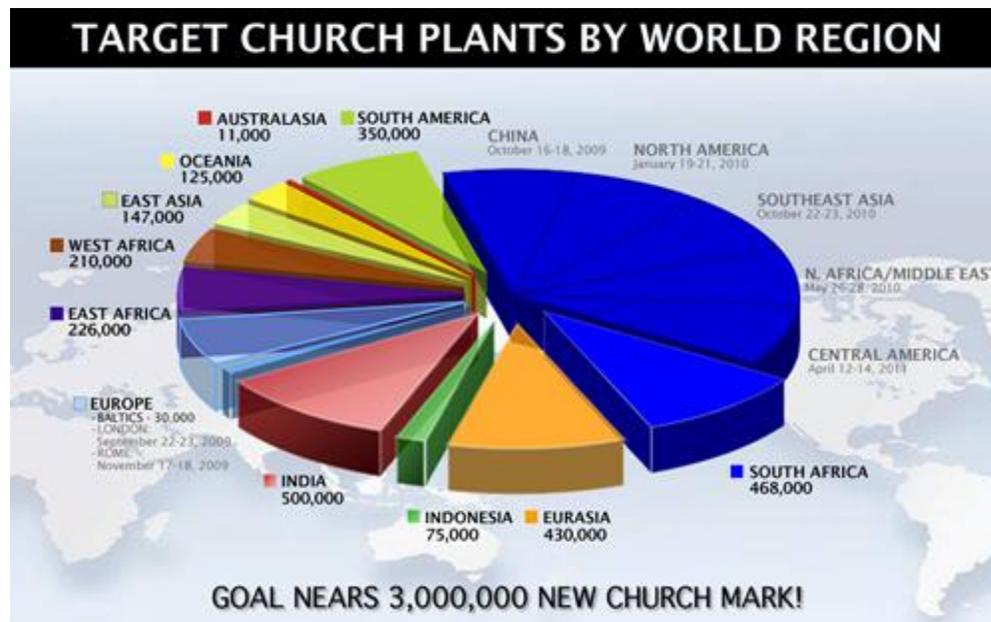
Taken from an Internet article quoting Ministry Today magazine.

A freelance writer in Huntington, W.V., Ken Walker is a regular contributor to Ministry Today and Charisma. Marcus Yoars is the editor of Ministry Today.

The article that follows was written by:

James O. Davis  
CoChair/Global Networking  
Founder/Billion Soul Network

It is important that we acknowledge the movements that are emphasizing World Evangelization in these important times.



At the present time, more than 1.8 billion people have never heard the gospel, which is more than 27% of the world population. At the current rate of Christian growth versus world population growth:

- In 2025, there will be more than 2 billion people who have never heard the Gospel. The Church has entered into a defining period, as to whether or not we will finish the Great Commission by 2100 A.D.
- In 2200, the world's population will exceed 10 billion and the unreached will still number 1.7 billion people. More people will have heard the Gospel, but 16% will still be in darkness.
- It will be 2500 A.D. or later before the Great Commission is fulfilled worldwide.
- By planting five million churches for a **BILLION SOULS** to come to Christ, the Church will double its size and shorten the timespan of Great Commission fulfillment to before 2100 A.D.

The **Second Billion Campaign** is a wide reaching campaign uniting pastors and leaders together for the united cause of "planting 5 million Church congregations. Through a large coalition they have organized to use the Internet and every possible way to equip pastors down to village level and encourage them to multiply their congregations to establish associated, multiplying congregations for Gospel Advancement.

Over the next 13 months, leaders will gather together for “12 Best To The Rest Summits,” in every world region, each designed to achieve the following:

**Challenge** the Church to double in size over the next season of years, through planting five million churches for a BILLION SOUL harvest. Every world region is challenged to plant 100 churches within one year and double it each year thereafter. Even with a 30% attrition rate, the global Church can plant more than 5 million churches in 13 years.

**Connect** key churches via Internet for global training capacity. When the network is completed, every major organization will have access to the finest training that will be uploaded online from the strongest ministries worldwide.

**Collect** the best resources and make them available worldwide. The cry of leaders worldwide is that the best resources are needed in order to finish this global task.

**Commit** to reach unreached people groups in each world region. While planting churches in familiar territory, we must continue to reach into areas where the Church has never gone before.

**Choose** a Cochair for every nation, territory and province. This global vision is too large for any single person to Chair or lead alone.

**Collaborate** on the best methods, models and minds for multiplication movements. The Church must learn how to multiply faster than ever before. Proven methods and models will “take the think time out” and will speed up Church growth at the same time.

The Billion Soul movement believes that every church, regardless of its size, and every Christian, whether known or unknown, can add value to the entire Body of Christ. The Billion Soul movement is not exclusive but inclusive.

Cynics say, "the Billion Soul vision is far too big." No, the vision is not too big but too small. Jesus Christ did not die for a percentage, but for the whole world. He did not die for just the Second Billion but for all 6.5 billion people on earth. Let's win them all!

## **LET'S GET MOTIVATED!**

The Billion Soul movement needs everybody. We don't need elbows jostling for position. We need hands, hearts and heads serving for the greater good. In 2001, I coauthored The Synergistic Church. Synergy is at the core of the Billion Soul movement. We can do more with less by multiplying our efforts through working together. It is not just about leadership, but relationship.

Completing the Great Commission is not about money; it's about motivation. We have enough money, enough Christians, enough time, talent and resources in the Kingdom of God. The reason we have not finished the Great Commission is that we are not motivated. Some would rather turn inward to fight one another than turn outward to fight alongside each other. The problem is not a "how to," but a "want to."

A century ago, if a missionary missed a ship, it was a missed opportunity by years. Through perilous travel, intermittent communication and meager resources, they forged ahead with a rallying cry, "BRING BACK THE KING!" Where is the passion with which they cried bitter tears for those dying without Christ? Where is the heart tug that pulled them to brave any voyage, skirt no jungle and fight harder with each mounting difficulty?

The words of past generations on whose shoulders we stand still echo in the heavenlies, "BRING BACK THE KING!" The world itself is calling, "Give us Truth!" We cannot bring back those who would bring back the king. We alone are the stewards of those to whom we are called, our own generation.

A small group of executives work together each year to make "Mickey Mouse" the most recognized name on earth. We have a billion Christians on earth. If we want to, we can finish spreading the Name above all Names, "**JESUS CHRIST!**"

More than two billion people on the planet do not have a church within walking distance or even one verse of Scripture to read. It must be all hands on deck to save the lost. A Church that is not winning the lost is lost itself.

A billion is too big to ignore and too big to do alone. If we are to finish the Great Commission, we cannot care who gets the credit, as long as God gets the glory. We must move from "Me" to "We" if "They" will ever hear about "Him." The Billion Soul is not about egos and logos, but about souls, souls and souls.

We have to realize collectively that the Great Commission will never be completed simply by proclaiming the Gospel via crusades, literature, compassion, satellite, radio or Internet, but also by planting churches. Until churches are planted in every unreached area, the devil has a stronghold that defies Christ. Wherever Christians are silent, the devil roars.

God birthed the Second Billion movement. We are moving forward to build it worldwide. This Lord is challenging us to become a part of something bigger than ourselves. We are asking Christians to put on the whole armor of God, not to watch it shine in the polished mirrors of fellowship halls but to watch it work in the battle to win the Second Billion.

One day the King of the Universe will descend through eternity into time, walking on clouds, the diadem of glory on His head and a rainbow of victory wrapped around His shoulders. From the celestial shores of heaven we will look back across our lives and realize that the Lord did not promise smooth sailing but a safe landing. In heaven, we can no longer win souls. We will be unable to accomplish the very goal for which Jesus died.

All of heaven is cheering us on to win a billion souls. We need to be motivated about what motivates heaven. How many souls will you be responsible for? How many churches will you help plant? One can put a thousand to flight but two can put ten

thousand to flight. We can achieve more together than we ever could alone by synergizing our efforts to bring back the King.

Until The Last Person Has Heard,

James O. Davis  
CoChair/Global Networking  
Founder/Billion Soul Network