

The Third Call

Wednesday, October 27, 2004

Dear fellow executives of frontier mission agencies,

We now finally have a date, costs, and a clear path to move forward: Amsterdam YWAM headquarters, April 18-21, 2005, all delegates, near or far, paying the same (covering travel and all conference costs), namely something under \$850 US.

Lest you waste time trying to dig up previous letters I will attach all four previous letters. But to save you time I will also give here an overview of events, quoting from some of the earlier letters.

Overview of the Three Calls

It is possible to see three world-level frontier mission events as parallel.

The First Call: In 1910, for the first time in history, mission leaders and missionaries were called together to consider how best to finish the global task of missions. The conference was called *The World Missionary Conference. That was the First Call.* No one was invited. The only people attending were *delegates* chosen by legitimate mission agencies. Great things came out of that conference. A Continuation Committee was formed. Then the *International Review of Missions* and the *International Missionary Council* (which served effectively for forty years) derived from that committee. This famous 1910 conference also, and unexpectedly, inspired dreams of both Christian unity and a number of other successive but unconnected conferences, some liberal, eventually resulting in the World Council of Churches. However, none of those later conferences had the distinctive composition of exclusively mission people as had the 1910 meeting.

The Second Call: In 1972 a Southern Baptist professor of mission proposed a repetition of the 1910 conference. In 1974, a group of missiologists under the banner of the newly formed American Society of Missiology, meeting at Wheaton College, hammered out the wording of a **Call for a second 1910 type conference** to meet on the world level in 1980. As reported in the July 31, 2003 letter (See attached), here is the exact wording of that Second Call.

It is suggested that a World Missionary Conference be convened in 1980 to confront contemporary issues in Christian world missions. The conference should be constituted by persons committed to cross-cultural missions, broadly representative of the missionary agencies of the various Christian traditions on a world basis.

When that 1980 meeting took place in Edinburgh in November of 1980, it was called *The World Consultation on Frontier Missions*. More agencies were represented than in 1910, and notably *one third of all agencies were now from the Third World* (none in 1910). The compendium of that conference is the book *Seeds of Promise*, Edited by Alan Starling (William Carey Library, 1981).

In 1980 the slogan adopted was "A Church for Every People By the Year 2000." Thomas Wang was one of the plenary speakers, and he carried it into the AD2000 movement with a clarifying addition, "A Church for Every People and the Gospel for Every Person by the Year 2000." Problem: the 1980 "Continuation Committee" failed to function. No ongoing structure survived.

The THIRD CALL: Clarifying and updating the wording of the Second Call, here is what was proposed in the July 31, 2003 letter for a "Third Call" meeting:

It is suggested that a global level conference be convened in 2004 or 2005 to confront

contemporary issues in Christian world missions with the purpose of establishing an on-going global network of mission agencies. The conference should be constituted by formal delegates of frontier active cross-cultural missions broadly representative of the mission agencies of the various Christian traditions on a world basis. The delegates need to be from appropriate agencies which have delegated them to speak for the agencies in regard to the plans for a global network of mission agencies.

The Sequence of Events Thus Far

At the Singapore '02 Conference the formal discussion highlighted the highest concern of the delegates as being the achievement of global level networking. That fact, it seemed to me, simply as one of the delegates, could readily be considered a "motion" for the establishment of such an entity. The question I then posed in a letter May 15, 2003 to those who attended the meeting (see first letter attached) asked if there existed a "second" to that motion. A flurry of positive responses resulted, effectively indicating that a "seconding" of the motion would be quite possible.

In the May 2003 letter I suggested a face-to-face meeting for the purpose of seconding the motion and sent out a call for a "second." It soon appeared to be true that rather than to meet at a world level merely to "second" the motion, the second was something that could actually be done by email.

Thus, in July of 2003, a second letter went out, asking for a "second." It included the following wording (on p. 2, paragraphs 2, 3, and 6):

Those *appropriate* agencies responding to the Third Call, which will agree to send delegates to the founding meeting should then 1) email in their formal, organizational decision to back the Third Call, 2) indicate their intention of sending a delegate to the founding meeting and 3) suggest dates when that would be preferable.

Note: an "appropriate" agency for this founding purpose ought to be, as before: An agency that has had at least five cross-cultural missionaries for at least three years, and is "frontier active," that is either now involved with outreach to, or mobilization for, reaching unreached people groups, or has definite plans to do so.

Any agency in substantial agreement with this Call, and which clearly qualifies under the "appropriate" definition above, is thus hereby invited to affirm their qualifications and "second" this motion by email, and plan to attend the founding meeting at a date and place to be determined.

Once again, the replies to the July '03 letter, during August and September of 2003, were enthusiastic. Thus it seemed reasonable to consider the "motion" of Singapore '02 now to be seconded!

Meanwhile, however, one response came from the Great Commission Roundtable, a global-level entity representing the Lausanne Committee and the World Evangelical Fellowship (now Association). They asked that we sit down with their executive committee and discuss the Third Call proposal from their point of view. As a result of this very reasonable request, a third letter, October 3, 2003 (see attached) then was sent out putting things on hold until after the expected meeting with the GRC in January of 2004. This third letter asked for definitive formal, official organizational replies to the Call.

Okay, that January meeting took place. Following the meeting the GRC formally responded:

Dear Dr. Winter:

Blessings in the name of the Almighty!

On behalf of Great Commission Roundtable, I want to express our deep gratitude

for accepting our invitation to be part of the Roundtable in Sierra Madre last week, a valuable exchange of ideas and clarifying questions about “The Third Call for Global Networking”.

As you requested, please find the statement from the participants of this Roundtable as follows:

“The dialogue between the GCR roundtable participants and Ralph Winter offered a valuable exchange of ideas as well as an opportunity to clarify issues through questions. In the spirit of this conversation, we request that the Third Call process and leadership be sensitive to existing grass-roots, national and regional mission structures. We also ask that the proposed Third Call meeting take place some time after the October 2004 Lausanne Forum.

On a personal level, we reaffirm our appreciation to Ralph, for his life and profound contribution to the global mission movement. His legacy will last a long time.”

May the Lord continue blessing your lives and ministry for the advance of Global Evangelization,

[Signed] David D. Ruiz M., International Coordinator, Great Commission Roundtable

Following that very friendly meeting with the GCR, a fourth letter went out dated March 12 (but not mailed until about June—I was recovering from a severe illness). That Fourth letter is attached with its original date, March 12, 2004. It is the source of the quote from the GCR.

Moving Ahead

At this point we approached the YWAM base in Amsterdam as a possible place to meet. Note that the total cost of flying people in from all over the world is probably less to Amsterdam than to any other point. (We did not choose that location because it was in the West.) The YWAM consent and sample dates came through a few days ago, just as I was leaving for the Lausanne meeting in Thailand

Nothing now stands between us and the founding meeting of a Global Network of Mission Structures. It is time to renew our perspective. The Lausanne Forum that is just past is a good place to start.

Renewing Our Perspective

The Lausanne Forum of 2004 (which occurred just a few days ago) was a major Lausanne meeting, thirty years after the first in 1974. Interestingly, I gave a plenary presentation in 1974, “The Highest Priority: Cross-Cultural Evangelism.” Now, thirty years later I believe I was the only plenary speaker from 1974 present at the Third Lausanne meeting.

All of the Lausanne meetings (including dozens of regional and national meetings) during these thirty years have had marvelous results. This time 1,700 people from 136 countries attended, speaking something like 50 languages. Lausanne meetings have consistently introduced the churches of West and Non-West to the multiple challenges of the Christian faith, and they have always invited a broader representation of Christian believers from around the world than are represented by the World Evangelical Association or any other existing global entity of which I know.

However, the focus of all of the Lausanne meetings has been primarily 1) the reaffirmation of our basic theology and 2) the reexamination of the multiple responsibili-

ties and opportunities of *existing churches* world over. The latter, of course, logically includes cross-cultural mission to peoples within which there is as yet no witness (e.g. “Classical Mission,” that is, “Unreached Peoples” outreach). However, the unreached peoples dimension at Lausanne gatherings has always been a relatively small percentage of the various “tracks” or “issue groups,” since churches do indeed have a wide variety of obligations under God.

Thus, at Thailand there were 31 “Issue” groups, such as, #4 Holistic mission, #8 Transformation of Cities and Slums, #16 Religious and Non-Religious Spirituality, #18 Evangelization of Children, #20 Understanding Muslims, #23 Reaching the Youth Generation, #24 Empowering Women and Men, #26 Discipling Oral Learners. Only #6 specifically focused on the remaining outreach to unreached peoples.

Even then the task in #6 was divided as #6a and #6b. The latter covered the need for outreach to “disabled” peoples cross cultural or not. It was said that disabled people number 650 million and constitute the third largest “country” in the world, an “Unreached People.” These issue groups mentioned could have all included some reference to peoples without a viable church among them (not just to unreached individuals), but with the exception of #6a, most all groups focused on what existing churches within reached groups might do *in their immediate locality*. Even the one on Islam was substantially on the need for church people to understand Islam, not on doing pioneer mission work within the culture of Islam. In fact, in important matters, the church people in the Muslim Issue group could not agree with the handful of missiologists present.

But, all told, it was an inspirational conference, located in marvelous facilities with world-class, lavish food arrangements. It was in no significant way a meeting of mission leaders concerned to penetrate the last frontiers. But, it was not supposed to be. To point this out is not to be critical but to acknowledge its real function.

Furthermore, it was not the intent of the conference to establish any sort of an ongoing global structure to facilitate mission agencies networking in the area of frontier missions. That remains to be done. That will happen, Lord willing, April 18-21.

What Can We Envision in Amsterdam?

What is envisioned is not a conference costing millions of dollars of subsidy, as have the Lausanne conferences. The very opposite. We don’t expect to rely on a single penny of subsidy. A global networking function is *the goal of the meeting*, not the discussion of mission strategies. Today, with email, a great deal can be done without any face-to-face global meetings. The purpose of our expected April ‘05 “founding meeting” in Amsterdam is simply to set up the essential ongoing structure of coordination and mutual edification between mission structures focused on the “classical mission” of going where Christ is not named.

As the result of this quite unique purpose, it is proposed that no money be spent on anything but room and board and travel, and that the latter be spread out so no agency sending a delegate will pay more than any other (See the hypothetical table at the end of this cover letter). If these economizing plans do not turn out ideally, later meetings can do things differently. But minimizing cost is a hallmark of the mission tradition. Since missions are an “out of sight, out of mind” operation, donations are always hard to secure, and agencies need to conserve every penny they get.

Practicalities

1. Due to the increased delays in getting visas these days of heightened security

against terrorists, we need to move quickly to confirm who is coming. See page 8 and 9 where travel details are mentioned. Note the Nov 20th deadline below.

2. This founding meeting need not require delegates from more than 30 agencies, one delegate per approved agency. To be neutral we need to accept agencies in the order in which they apply and are approved. Those which respond last may not be able to be accepted. A number of agencies have already applied. If they are approved by the credentials committee (see next paragraph) they will be the first to be included. However, no one is going to pick and choose which agency sends a delegate. That will be determined by the order of application.

3. A credentials committee has been assembled, simply to review the basic facts about the agencies wanting to send a delegate. An appropriate agency, as mentioned earlier, *must have at least five cross-culturally-experienced members for a minimum of three years of operation, and the agency must be concerned seriously with unreached peoples*. Unless your agency is given the go-ahead signal by this credentials committee, you must not plan to send a delegate. Also, if your definitive reply comes later than November 20 it may be too late to be counted in.

4. In addition to agencies approved by the credentials committee, that same committee will accept applications from a maximum of a single official delegate from ten national (or regional) associations of missions, such as NEMA of Nigeria, the IFMA in the USA, and the IMA of India. These delegates will be considered **consultants**, non-voting, unless they also represent a specific approved sending structure.

5. What will be the actual cost for each and every delegate, one from each agency?

- a. Room and board (nine meals, three nights) 65 Euros (about \$81.25 US)
- b. Travel pool, *about* 614 Euros (\$767 US)
- c. Registration, \$0

Where did these figures come from? We do not expect there to be any expenses other than costs incurred by the delegates themselves, which means travel, food, space. We have been given a firm cost for room and board of sixty-five Euros, which at the moment is US \$81.25 for the evening meal the 18th through lunch the 21st, including overnight the three nights 18-20. The travel pool is an estimate, hopefully high. Exact travel pool costs will be worked out by December 1st **if we have prompt replies for our credentials committee to consider.**

Once we know precisely from where delegates will be coming, an agency in the Netherlands will ascertain the lowest possible round trip air fare from all those places. If this should turn out anything like what I outlined hypothetically in my 2nd (July 31, '03) letter, each delegate (no matter whether they are near to Amsterdam or far) will pay \$767 US into the travel pool (see the last page). I don't think that amount will be higher and it may well be lower. On top of that, the amazingly economical board and room will be added.

What will be the Global Network of Mission Structures?

It seems very strange that while global level meetings of like-minded people are common, and church people often gather to discuss theology and/or many different kinds of ministries, it seems sometimes that people are less enthusiastic when *mission people* want to gather on the global level, even on the national level.

In the United States, the Foreign Mission Conference of North America did not start until 1891, which was 90 years after mission agencies (denominational or inter-

denominational) began to emerge. After a few years the FMCNA decided that only denominational agencies were legitimate, asking interdenominational agencies not to vote. This, in 1917, virtually forced into being the Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association, when the CIM, SIM, AIM etc. were still fairly young. Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission, was present at the 1910 meeting but there were in those days far fewer interdenominational agencies. In 1925, 75% of American missionaries were sent out by the mainline denominations. This dominance had dropped to 5% by 1980.

By the 1980 meeting in Edinburgh, no such distinctions were raised (denominational or interdenominational), and any entity functioning as a sending mission structure that had five cross-cultural missionaries for at least three years was welcome to send delegates. That 1980 meeting became a large gathering of 146 agencies or so, all paying their own travel. The proposed GNMS may in the future hold large meetings, too. But in an age of email, that need and frequency will be far less.

What will the GNMS do? It will do whatever the member agencies decide. The founding meeting will elect a board. That board, governed by the members, will do whatever the member agencies decide. Many of the things a global office will do will parallel and supplement what is being done on a national and regional level. We recall that the follow-through of the 1910 meeting created a periodical with a global perspective. The GNMS office can maintain close ties to the Lausanne Committee, the World Evangelical Association, and the Great Commission Roundtable, etc.

One specific thing that needs to be done is to collect, on the world level a list of email and postal addresses for all the agencies in the world which are seriously involved in what can be called frontier missions. Thousands of agencies are doing good things all around the world. But *the hardest and most complex task is frontier missions to unreached peoples*. The relatively fewer frontier mission agencies have every reason to be in touch with each other. Phill Butler has done a marvelous job of fostering collaboration in regional areas. This needs to be done on the world level.

Note also that the very phenomenon of migration forces consideration of global level collaboration. It is a concern that can best be dealt with effectively on the world level. It is the growing phenomenon of more and more major people groups spreading all over the world by the millions. These are called national “diasporas” (the Greek word for *dispersion*). Note that national and regional groups by their very geographical confines are not well equipped to track intercontinental migrations.

A substantial book entitled *Scattered* was given out to all participants at the Lausanne meeting in Thailand earlier this month. This superb book may be the first serious study of the *diaspora* of a given nation from the standpoint of missions. Millions of Filipino workers are all over the world, just like the ancient diaspora of Jewish believers. Just as Paul sought to minister in and to Jewish synagogues around the Roman empire, hundreds of Filipino pastors are out across the world doing the same for Filipino believers in foreign countries. The millions of Filipinos out there are both a mission *field* and a remarkably strategic mission *base*. Indeed, the book has a whole chapter which agonizes over whether to call these pastors in foreign countries missionaries or not.

We are concerned for the Gospel to reach to all “Unreached Peoples,” that is, remaining ethnic groups within which there is not yet any culturally relevant church movement. The Filipino diaspora and other diasporas from other nations are very crucial. Whatever we call the pastors who are out there in foreign lands ministering

to their own countrymen, whether they are called missionaries or not, the really challenging task is for them and their church members to learn enough of the language and culture of the host country to be able to penetrate the unreached groups in that country if there are any.

What is a Missionary as Distinct from an Evangelist?

Just for the record, and in light of our upcoming meeting in Amsterdam, it may be helpful to make a purely pragmatic distinction, namely, 1) an *evangelist* is someone who is reaching souls without having to puzzle through a foreign language and culture. 2) the word *missionary* then, means those who work cross culturally within a people group where there is not yet a viable, indigenous, evangelizing church movement—that is, they work within a group in which no one has ever been able effectively to explain the Gospel in that situation.

The latter work is not more important, for the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who comes to repentance. But the latter work is clearly more *urgent*, both because people in such groups have no access to the Gospel, and, furthermore, the task of reaching into such groups from the outside is incredibly more demanding, perplexing, and difficult to accomplish. In other words, a missionary is one who a) crosses into a different culture, and 2) needs to do so because in that other culture there is not yet a “viable, indigenous, evangelizing church movement.”

To be able to send a delegate to Amsterdam, an agency does not even have to be involved as yet in an unreached people. If the agency has five people who have had at least three years of cross-cultural ministry, and, is intending to assist in reaching the unreached peoples, that is the minimal test for at least this first meeting.

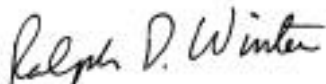
We rejoice in the many agencies which are serving the various church constituencies around the world even though they may not be focused on unreached peoples. However, at this stage we are convinced some agencies must be focused seriously on outreach to the truly unreached peoples.

Your agency does not need to attend the founding meeting in April of 2005 to become a member of the resulting GNMS. However, if you wish to send a delegate to that meeting these are the essential elements:

1. Your agency must be one of the kind the credentials committee will approve, see page 2.
2. Your agency must be able to afford the necessary US \$850.
3. We cannot guarantee translation from English into other languages.
4. You must reply by Nov 20 so we can confirm your delegate by Dec 1st. See travel details on next sheet.
5. You must be able to secure a visa in time.

If your agency can fulfill these conditions and does not apply too late for there still to be room, we will welcome your delegate to the founding meeting of the Global Network of Mission Structures!

Blessings on you as you consider this,



Ralph D. Winter, provisional convener

Speculations about travel to Amsterdam

	City	Distance	Estimated cost	All delegates pay this amount	We save on these tickets	We lose on these tickets
1	Calcutta	4,734	\$789	\$767		\$22
2	Chennai	4,890	\$815	\$767		\$48
3	Frankfurt	227	\$38	\$767	-\$729	
4	Hong Kong	5,770	\$962	\$767		\$195
5	Johannesburg	5,600	\$933	\$767		\$167
6	Lagos	3,160	\$527	\$767	-\$240	
7	Lima	6,530	\$1,088	\$767		\$322
8	London	230	\$38	\$767	-\$728	
9	Los Angeles	5,560	\$927	\$767		\$160
10	Melbourne	10,300	\$1,717	\$767		\$950
11	Mexico	5,720	\$953	\$767		\$187
12	Nairobi	4,150	\$692	\$767	-\$75	
13	New York	3,630	\$605	\$767	-\$162	
14	Orlando	4,530	\$755	\$767	-\$12	
15	Oslo	572	\$95	\$767	-\$671	
16	Sao Paulo	6,080	\$1,013	\$767		\$247
17	Seoul	5,320	\$887	\$767		\$120
18	Tokyo	5,790	\$965	\$767		\$198
	Total Distance	82,793	\$13,799			
	Ave Cost		\$767		-\$2,616	\$2,616

The travel costs shown here are pure guesswork at this stage. Also, we don't yet know where delegates may be coming from. This table does, however, show the way we will work out the travel pool average cost.

A travel agent in Amsterdam will figure lowest prices. Buying in your country may be lower. Delegates from a great distance will buy their tickets at lowest cost and then receive a refund on arrival, bringing their actual cost down to the average. Delegates coming from close cities will pay an additional amount up to the average cost.

If the above estimates were correct, a person from Johannesburg will receive a US \$167 refund from the travel pool on arrival at the conference, while a delegate from New York will have to pay an additional US \$162 into the travel pool.

It seems clear that delegates from afar must trust the conference to reimburse them in part, while the conference must trust the delegates from closer cities to provide the extra funds up to the travel pool average.

NOTE: if in order to get a visa, you need a financial guarantee from Amsterdam the same agency with which we are in touch can do that for you.

Ralph D. Winter
1469 Bresee Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91104-2604

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Dear friend in Christ,

You are receiving this letter because you attended the Singapore '02 Conference last fall. It is being sent to all who attended except for some who did not want their addresses made available.

Now, I can't speak for the conference, but I feel certain that I speak informally for a large majority of those who attended. These are the many for whom the one item of highest priority (as indicated by the final discussions at the conference) was that of forming some sort of on-going global connection between mission agencies of the kind gathered there in Singapore. It appears to me that the degree of agreement on this issue could almost constitute a "motion" for the creation of such a global entity that would pursue similar interests between meetings of that kind. Thus, I would think it is time for a "second" to such a motion.

There is good precedence for that kind of a global structure. William Carey while in India kept up a large correspondence with other sending structures. He finally sent out a "Call" on his own for a global meeting to be held in Cape Town, South Africa in 1810. But there was not sufficient interest for that to happen until 1910. When that 1910 meeting finally came to be it also became the most influential single conference in the history of missions. It created the International Missionary Council and the *International Review of Missions*.

In 1972 a similar gathering was proposed, and in 1974 another "Call" was issued by a group of mission professors, which eventuated in a second "1910" meeting in 1980, just 70 years after 1910.

Now there is obviously a stirring for a *third* such gathering, not 70 years after 1980 but only 25 years later, in, say, 2005, this time meeting with the express purpose of setting in motion a "Continuation Committee" or, to use contemporary language, something like an ongoing "Global Network of Mission Structures."

You may readily ask, "But, is this only the *third* time this particular kind of a global meeting will have been held? Have not lots of meetings brought together mission structures globally?" You are right in one sense. But we are now talking about a very rare type of gathering, defined very precisely (as in 1910 and 1980), namely, 1) a meeting solely of specialized mission sending structures, denominational or interdenominational, not simply sending congregations, and, 2) a meeting not formed by invitation, where certain people and not others are invited, but formed by issuing a "call" for agencies of a certain special type to send whatever delegates they choose, and *for the purpose of creating an on-going office of information and coordination*.

Other kinds of meetings have been and will be numerous and beneficial. This kind of founding meeting is a rare jewel in its value and impact, mainly because its agenda is so much more precisely constructed, and it is the logical base from which to initiate something like a global network of mission agencies.

OK, what will it take to send out another "Call" like that?

Relatively simple. Almost any group of respectable mission leaders, large or small, can issue the call. Remember it takes only one person to make a motion. Everything then depends on who "seconds" the motion, that is, those mission agency leaders who answer the call, and what they do when they meet together, whether they understand and pursue faithfully the principles behind the call or not. But that will be up to the group that responds.

This letter is not in itself a call. It is rather an invitation to see who would want to be in that kind of a small group of mission leaders who will meet briefly to issue a formal call.

In the next few weeks and months, such a small group will need to meet somewhere to formulate and issue the call for a global meeting which can be the founding meeting of an ongoing network for fellowship and inspiration.

So, would you be interested in the first meeting—to issue the call—or would you choose rather simply to await the forthcoming call and come to the formal, founding meeting later? Or do you have further questions? Send an email to me indicating your questions or stating your interest in being at the call-issuing meeting and suggestions about where it might take place. About 40 pages of details about this are to be found in the current issues of *Mission Frontiers*, and the *International Journal of Mission Frontiers*, which are now on the web site of <www.ijfm.org>. If you wish to have a hard copy of those two issues I will gladly mail them to you. You may reply to <ThirdCall332211@aol.com>.

Your earnest prayers are eagerly requested!

In Christ,

Ralph D. Winter
(One of those who attended the Singapore '02 conference).

Frontier Mission Fellowship

Sponsor Organization of the US Center for World Mission

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Thursday, July 31, 2003

Dear fellow servants in the Kingdom of God,

The first letter about a “Third Call,” which was sent out in May, is added here at the end of this letter for your reference. It asks who would like to participate in “a small group of mission leaders who will meet briefly to issue a formal Call”—a call for a later and larger gathering of delegates from mission societies who will meet with the specific purpose of founding an ongoing “Global Network of Mission Agencies.”

The response has been terrific and good suggestions have come to us as well. The most important suggestion is that the proposed “small meeting to launch the Call (for the larger gathering)” could simply be an email consensus. That is, we can send out wording similar to the “second” Call and ask how many agencies will endorse it for the third. Then, from those that formally endorse it as it is (at least tentatively), we can see if there are any suggestions for further improvements in the wording.

Avoiding that first small meeting will in fact save at least \$14,000 of the Lord’s money. Let me tell you how I figured out that cost. I guessed that we might have had 18 delegates come from the following places below. The first number is the airline distance to Amsterdam, the second number is a wild guess at the cost of a round trip ticket. [The reason for choosing Amsterdam is because a gathering representing the whole globe would very likely be much more costly if everyone went to a less central location, such as Pasadena, California, or Singapore or Melbourne.]

Calcutta 4730 788,
Chennai 4890 815,
Frankfurt 227 37,
Hong Kong 5770 961,
Johannesburg 5600 933,
Lagos 3160 526,
Lima 6530 1088,
London 230 38,
Los Angeles 5560 926,
Melbourne 10300 1716,
Mexico 5720 953,
Nairobi 4150 691,
New York 3630 605,
Orlando 4530 755,
Oslo 572 95,
Sao Paulo 6080 1013,
Seoul 5320 886,
Tokyo 5790 965

Now, the total cost adding these estimates comes to \$13,798, which is an average of \$767 per delegate, not counting, of course, room and board for the meeting. Note that this first meeting was intended merely for the purpose of “making a motion,” a Call, so

to speak. The next, founding meeting will then allow those agencies sending delegates in response to the Call to “vote” for the motion by email endorsement, by virtue of attending, and at the resulting founding meeting proceed to hammer out the guidelines for the ongoing “Global Network of Mission Agencies” (a tentative title).

So let’s try it! I append here wording similar to the (second) Call that led to the 1980 meeting at Edinburgh. Those “appropriate” agencies which will agree to send delegates to the founding meeting should then email in their formal, organizational decision to back the Call and indicate their intention of sending a delegate to the founding meeting and suggest dates when that would be preferable. (Use the email address: thirdcall@headsail.net.)

Note: an “appropriate” agency for this founding purpose ought to be, as before: An agency that has had at least five cross-cultural missionaries for at least three years, and is “frontier active,” that is either now involved with outreach to, or mobilization for, reaching unreached people groups, or has definite plans to do so.

The 1980 Call was worded as follows:

It is suggested that a World Missionary Conference be convened in 1980 to confront contemporary issues in Christian world missions. The conference should be constituted by persons committed to cross-cultural missions, broadly representative of the missionary agencies of the various Christian traditions on a world basis.

With rewording for clarification and updating, here is what is proposed for the 2004 or 2005 “third” Call meeting:

It is suggested that a global level conference be convened in 2004 or 2005 to confront contemporary issues in Christian world missions with the purpose of establishing an on-going global network of mission agencies. The conference should be constituted by formal delegates of frontier active cross-cultural missions broadly representative of the mission agencies of the various Christian traditions on a world basis. The delegates need to be from appropriate agencies which have delegated them to speak for the agencies in regard to the plans for a global network of mission agencies.

Any agency in substantial agreement with this Call, and which clearly qualifies under the “appropriate” definition above, is thus hereby invited to affirm their qualifications and “second” this motion by email, and plan to attend the founding meeting at a date and place to be determined. There may be suggested refinements to the Call and/or the definition of “appropriate” agencies, either by email or at the founding meeting when it takes place. However, it is not reasonable or desirable for agencies not willing to work with the call as stated to expect to make drastic changes.

We also sent out a packet enclosing a special issue of *Mission Frontiers* and a special issue of the *International Journal of Frontier Missions*, each describing the historical groundwork for what is intended to happen. [Those materials explain that apparently only twice before have there been global level meetings of delegates exclusively from mission agencies, in 1910 and 1980, both at Edinburgh. Each, with varying success launched an ongoing global network, neither of which have current existence.]

This letter is now again being sent both by email and hard copy to those whose addresses we have on file. We will gladly send the previous letter and/or those two periodicals to anyone who did not receive them. However, since those two periodicals are rather voluminous let me list some of the key points which derive from the actual historical guidelines of the earlier two meetings.

1. This "Third" meeting and resulting Global Network structure should not be born as sponsored by any existing organization.
2. No individual, as an individual, will be "invited," either to the founding or later meetings. All the people present will be chosen and sent to the meeting as delegates by appropriate agencies. The only agencies considered appropriate to send delegates are those which either send workers into mission frontiers or specifically mobilize home or foreign believers for engagement with valid frontiers of mission. A credentials committee will impartially verify factors of this sort.
3. The ultimate character and function of the founding meeting (and the resulting on-going structure/network) will thus simply be determined by the delegates sent by appropriate mission agencies that choose to participate.
4. It is quite possible that a majority of the agencies determined to be appropriate and choosing to participate will be from within the "Two Thirds World."
5. What is envisioned will not seek to control or determine the future work of any agency. It will neither possess authority nor power to force any agency in any way. Since agency affiliation will be completely voluntary, participation or not will be up to the decision of each given agency.

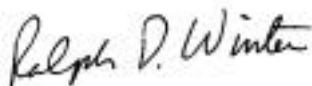
Now, then, is the time to act. Remember, to issue the Call we expect a group of agencies officially in their own name to indicate agreement, not the opinions of any individuals. Thus, can your agency say yes or no that it can back this Third Call? Theoretically the Call could be issued from a single agency. Let's for practical purposes say that we will wait until twelve can officially support the Call. Let's set a date by which we would like to see that happen. How about October 1, 2003?

Some agencies may want their board of directors to agree, and that will take time. For an agency to back the Call, however, only means they wish to "second the motion" for a founding meeting (later to occur) at which many aspects will be deliberated. This does not necessarily require board action, merely official action.

We will hope, then, that by Oct 1st of this year we can hear from twelve representative agencies which will "second" the Call, the wording as it stands. From that point we will consider the Call officially issued, and we will then be able to deliberate further suggestions and a date for the founding meeting, hopefully to take place in 2004 or 2005.

Lastly, please use this email address for all correspondence regarding the Third Call: Thirdcall@headsail.net.

Very cordially, as merely a catalyst,



Ralph D. Winter

Frontier Mission Fellowship

Sponsor Organization of the US Center for World Mission

Ralph D. Winter, General Director
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Friday, October 3, 2003

Dear fellow participant,

Greetings in Christ. This is our third letter and we now have a large response to build upon. We feel, however, we need to compile a file of more formal responses on the part of those who want to be involved. This letter therefore presents one final step for you to take care of, as indicated by the questions below.

First, a brief review of our Basic Understanding, copied verbatim from the last letter:

1. This "Third" meeting and resulting global network of mission structures should not be born as sponsored by any existing organization.
2. No individual, as an individual, will be "invited," either to the founding meeting or later meetings. All the people who arrive will have been chosen and sent to the meetings as delegates by appropriate agencies. The only agencies considered appropriate to send delegates are those that either send workers into mission frontiers or specifically mobilize home or foreign believers for engagement with valid frontiers of mission. Prior to coming to the meeting the credentials committee will impartially verify factors of this sort.
3. The ultimate character and function of the founding meeting (and the resulting on-going structure/network) will thus be determined by the delegates sent by appropriate mission agencies that choose to participate. (Added here: Those delegates do not have to be officers of the agency—they can be anyone the agency is willing to send representing that agency.)
4. It is likely that a majority of the agencies determined to be appropriate, and choosing to participate, will be from within the "Two Thirds World."
5. What is envisioned will not seek to control or determine the future work of any agency. It will neither possess authority nor power to pressure any agency in any way. Since agency affiliation will be completely voluntary, participation or not will be up to the decision of each given agency.

We are delighted that many have now responded positively to the Third Call letter, and to the above basic understandings.

For those who have responded or who still wish to respond, we need to complete our files for this conference. To do that we need you to send us by mail to the address above (on your official letterhead) answers to the following questions, giving the corresponding number for each answer. If you can, please also send the same information by email (to thirdcall@headsail.net) since it will speed things up. (At this time you do not need to specify the name or names of delegates you may be thinking of sending to the founding meeting.)

1. On what date was your structure founded?
2. What is the legal name of your mission agency?
3. What, if any, is another commonly used name?
4. Who is the person to keep in contact about Third Call matters?
5. What is the Email address of this contact person?
6. What is the full mailing address of your agency?
7. Do you fulfill the minimal criteria of association as listed above? (Yes/No)
8. Do you hereby certify that you are in basic agreement with the Third Call proposal and will try to send a delegate(s) to attend and participate in the founding conference (date not yet set)? (Yes/No)

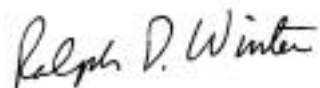
Once a sufficient number of these more formal statements of agreement are in our hands we will then poll all of those for the best date for the founding meeting. As mentioned last time we would like to even out travel costs with a travel pool to which each would contribute even if they are close to the meeting place so that we can subsidize those who come from further away. (With this in mind, it seems that a global meeting would cost the least if held in Amsterdam.)

It is that simple!

Please tell us if you missed out on either of the special issues of *Mission Frontiers* and the *International Journal of Frontier Missions*. We want everyone to be familiar with the substantial historical case for such an entity.

Awaiting your final, formal response.

In Christ,



Ralph D. Winter

P.S. News note: we are delighted that the Great Commission Roundtable has scheduled a meeting here in Pasadena for January 12, 13, and 14. One of its purposes is to get better acquainted with the Third Call and its underlying proposal for a first, global network of mission structures.

Frontier Mission Fellowship

The Sponsoring Organization of the US Center for World Mission

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Friday, March 12, 2004

Dear Coworkers in the Cause of Christ,

Note, first of all that this letter was written in March but due to my press of responsibilities it failed to go out until just now three months later. I want to apologize for that absent-mindedness. I may see some of you in Pataya, Thailand at the end of September. The following is what I wrote last March.

We last wrote to you in October 2003, explaining that we had been invited to present the Third Call thinking to the Executive Committee meeting of the Great Commission Roundtable (GCR) and that we felt we should postpone further planning until that meeting was behind us. The GCR incorporates elements of the Lausanne Committee, the World Evangelical Alliance, and the former AD2000 Movement.

Why did we take so seriously this meeting of the Great Commission Roundtable? Because at this date in history it is in some ways the closest thing to the Jerusalem Council described in Acts 15. The perspective and advice of these key leaders seemed highly important to our plans.

So we did meet with them, and now have that very cordial meeting behind us. Following the meeting we then received the following magnanimous reply from them:

Dear Dr. Winter:

Blessings in the name of the Almighty!
On behalf of Great Commission Roundtable, I want to express our deep gratitude for accepting our invitation to be part of the Roundtable in Sierra Madre last week, a valuable exchange of ideas and clarifying questions about "The Third Call for Global Networking".

As you requested, please find the statement from the participants of this Roundtable as follows:

"The dialogue between the GCR roundtable participants and Ralph Winter offered a valuable exchange of ideas as well as an opportunity to clarify issues through questions. In the spirit of this conversation, we request that the Third Call process and leadership be sensitive to existing grass-roots, national and regional mission structures. We also ask that the proposed Third Call meeting take place some time after the October 2004 Lausanne Forum.

On a personal level, we reaffirm our appreciation to Ralph, for his life and profound contribution to the global mission movement. His legacy will last a long time."

May the Lord continue blessing your lives and ministry for the advance of Global Evangelization

David D. Ruiz M.
International Coordinator
Great Commission Roundtable

In view of their very reasonable request that we set a date following the meeting they are planning for the fall, we simply want to urge you keep the Third Call vision alive in your hearts and minds for a few more months, and save up the necessary travel and registration funds for a meeting quite likely in the spring of next year (2005).

Meanwhile, try to take into account and think through the functions of a network which for the first time in history will link mission structures from all parts of the globe. This will include all qualified structures which desire to take part. Note that they will not be "invited" but if *qualified* as to the type of mission structure they are they will become "qualified" to belong and to come to the founding meeting and participate in basic decisions about the future of the network.

Perhaps the most obvious and unique function of such a network will be to facilitate the focus upon people groups whose populations are found in significant number in more than one region of the world. We already have both national level and *regional* level associations of missions (though not as many or as vital as would be desirable), but heretofore there has been no *global* association incorporating entities from all parts of the world.

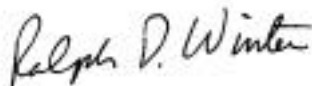
The International Missionary Council did a lot of good in its earlier years but while it included *agencies* in the Western world it eventually included so many national *churches* in the non-western world it transmuted basically into a council of *church councils* not *mission agencies*. Thus, it could not take seriously into account non-western sending agencies. Yet non-western sending agencies have existed as far back as the 19th Century in the case of the Melanesian Brethren, who sent true missionaries from the southern areas of the Solomon Islands to other language groups (unreached peoples) in the northern part.

Now, finally for the first time, a modest, non-coercive, inclusive, formal tie will come into being, Lord willing, between *mission agencies* on the global level, and I hope and pray this new network will, among other things, contribute to the acceleration of the appropriate and strategic distribution of mission efforts on this needy globe of ours.

Many of you have been praying for my health. I deeply appreciate that. At one point three months ago I felt sure that I would die before attend the founding meeting to which we are looking forward. However, in addition to a slow-growing terminal cancer (bone marrow cancer--Myeloma) I was finally diagnosed for Lyme disease, which is what apparently emaciated me and rendered me so helpless. This disease took advantage of the immune defenses lowered by the cancer and caused a great deal of difficulty. But now treatments for the Lyme disease have brought me back on my feet, able to walk without assistance, and my cancer is not likely to drag me down for another year or two. Thus, I am radiant with hope that I can be present at the founding meeting next spring!

Feel free to ask questions and make suggestions, especially of dates next spring. To minimize the total cost of the Lord's money we intend to pick the cheapest place in the world to which everyone can fly. We will then count up the total travel cost and level out the expense so that everyone ends up spending the same amount for travel, even those living in whatever city we choose (probably Amsterdam). We do not want to be dependent on gifts from the outside for subsidy. If they come in they will benefit everyone evenly.

May the Lord richly bless you.



Ralph D. Winter