

Floor Committee 12: Board for Home Missions

**Subject: Board for Home Missions**

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp.123-127

Report No. 01

As members of Floor Committee 12, we wish to highlight the Board Home Missions' (BHM) Report:

The work of the Board for Home Missions is **Urgent**.

Fields are still ripe for the harvest and workers are needed. Within North America, the needs are great. Many people are moving back to cities, a factor which provides unique challenges and opportunities. The work in North America is being done among many cultures, including, but not limited to, Hmong, Hispanic, Sudanese, Asian, and Muslim cultures. 28% of the BHM budget for 2014 supported cross-cultural ministry. Because the work among multi-cultural ministries tends to overlap with the work of the Board for World Missions, a joint mission council has been established (see report from Joint Mission Council, BORAM pp. 119-121). College students need the forgiveness that Jesus offers, and thus Campus Ministry is also vitally important.

The work of the Board for Home Missions is **amazing**.

By God's grace, 600 missions have been authorized by the Board for Home Missions since 1960, and 23 of those have been authorized since 2010. Five new missions were started in 2014 and seven started in 2015. Approximately \$700,000 coming from the Church Extension Fund (CEF) over each of the next two years will fund more new missions. We give thanks to God for these additional blessings bestowed upon new missions through CEF. Realizing that starting new missions is expensive, our committee sees the benefits of the Board for Home Mission's plan of encouraging missions to be self-supporting within eight years.

The work of the Board for Home Missions is **flexible**.

The Board for Home Missions recognizes there is no "cookie-cutter" approach to doing mission work in North America (see the Ad Hoc 2 report in BORAM p.191-193) . Although the Holy Spirit alone converts unbelieving hearts, the approach to starting new missions varies with location and community makeup. The Board for Home Missions encourages God's people to seek opportunities to cultivate fields in their own areas, sharing the Gospel in a variety of ways.

The work of the Board for Home Missions **involves many people.**

The work of planting a new mission church involves the efforts of volunteer district mission board members, mission counselors, consultants, administrators, individual congregations and congregation members. The work could not continue at the same level without the support of mission partners like the Church Extension Fund, Kingdom Workers, Builders for Christ, Lutheran Women's Missionary Society, Christian Aid and Relief, and our Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary with its Vicars in Missions program and Summer Student Assistant program. These partnerships illustrate how we are *One in Christ*.

We praise and thank God especially for the work of two individual Christians who worked under the umbrella of the Board for Home Missions: Pastor Kenneth Brokmeier, whose term expired after serving as Chairman of the Campus Ministry Committee for the past eight years, and Pastor Harry Hagedorn who served for 25 years as the administrator of the Board for Home Missions. Pastor Hagedorn was called to his eternal glory in April of 2015.

Respectfully submitted:

Pastor Tim Bode, chairman  
Teacher Scott Wagner, secretary