

Floor Committee 08: World Missions and Joint Mission Council

Subject: Board for World Missions and Joint Mission Council Reports

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, p. 116-123

Report No. 01

So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it (Isaiah 55:11).

God continues to open opportunities all over the world for WELS to share the gospel message in the dying world in which we live. We are excited about the ongoing work of our World Missions Board and Joint Mission Council. We pray God continues to bless our efforts to his glory for the generations to come.

WELS World Missions conducts and encourages gospel outreach in 40 foreign countries and is exploring outreach opportunities in 14 prospective new mission fields.

In 2018, we gave thanks to God for the blessings of 125 years of gospel ministry to the Apache tribes in Arizona. About 4,000 Apache are actively participating in mission work there.

In 2018, more than ten trips took place to enhance outreach opportunities in African countries. We welcome into WELS fellowship two sister churches in Taiwan and Kenya.

God's grace has opened doors to an unprecedented mission opportunity in communist Vietnam. A training center is being built in Vietnam. We wait excitedly to see how God blesses the efforts in this unanticipated fertile mission field.

The Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) continues to be a blessing. Professors Jon Bare, Brad Wordell, and E. Allen Sorum are faithfully serving in their positions. They request your prayers and financial support. PSI adjunct professors are helping assist the PSI team in major world mission regions.

1.5 million individuals are following our WELS Spanish Facebook page, Academia Cristo. This online presence has given WELS missionaries many opportunities to initiate face-to-face meetings and Bible classes. Academia Cristo has led to the launch of the TELL Network. The second TELL Network online class in March had more than 300 students from 44 different countries.

Missionaries are using technology to meet regularly with Board for World Missions administrative committees. Conversations and decisions that took five to six months in the 1960s can now be accomplished in hours or days. Praise God for this blessing of technology. 41 world missionaries have partnered with 400 national pastors to conduct outreach and train more than 380 seminary students for service in Christ's kingdom.

We commend the Joint Mission Council for the work they are doing as they work to best blend our efforts in Home Missions, World Missions, and Ministerial Education.

Pastor William Brassow, chairman
Teacher Chris Hintz, secretary