

Floor Committee #9: World Missions, Joint Mission Council

Subject: Board for World Missions and Joint Mission Council Report

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp. 113-121

Report No. 01

The Board for World Missions and the Joint Mission Council continue to see the fruits of their labor by God's blessing. That faithful work has now planted and nurtured mission opportunities to share the gospel in at least 42 countries around the world. In addition, 17 mission fields remain under an exploratory mission status. God is using all of us right now to have an impact in a big way. God be praised for the work of the Holy Spirit in these ripe harvest fields!

Our committee wishes to offer special thanks for several areas of special blessing in this mission work:

- First, we note the blessing that the work of the Commission on Inter-Church Relations has provided as it seeks to assist in WELS' maintenance of relationships with sister synods.
- Second, we thank God for the fruits of *Academia Cristo* as it continues to reach thousands of gospel-deprived people in Latin American missions. Through the effective use of a mobile app and website, training and instruction in God's Word continues to take place in locations it may not otherwise.
- We commend and give thanks for the work of Pastor Glen Hieb now in retirement from the pastoral ministry and his position on the Board for World Missions. We ask God's blessing on Pastor Jon Schroeder as he now carries forward in this position on the Board for World Missions.
- Finally, we thank God for the blessing of all of our called and lay workers that are trained for and carry out mission work around the world, and we boldly ask God to continue to send pastors that are trained to continue this important work in the future.

Our committee wishes to call attention to several notable areas and topics of world mission work:

- The WELS Mission Journeys program is intended to connect WELS' "grassroots" churches to missions and mission work. These can serve home churches with great lessons learned from our mission settings that can be put into practice back in home congregations. The WELS Mission Journeys program is growing with many journeys already planned and booked for this year. Mr. Shannon Bohme serves as the contact person for this program.
- COVID-19 continues to be a great struggle for countries around the world outside of the United States where resources are limited. Please continue to pray for these people in areas of the world that continue to be greatly affected by this virus and the challenges that it has presented.
- There is a great need to encourage and train people of all cultures and ethnicities to serve as pastors and teachers.
- There would be great benefit in continuing to examine how WELS can work toward a more diverse representation among synodical leadership and at district conferences and synodical conventions. A greater racial or ethnic diversity in leadership and representation would assist us in connecting to our diverse world. It would also help us to hear and learn from those whom we currently serve or hope to reach out to.

Pastor Phil Huebner, chairman
Teacher Kristian Walta, secretary