

Report to the Fellowship Council Encompass World Partners January 2014

Most of us are familiar with the humble beginnings of Brethren missions. On September 4, 1900, while hundreds of National Conference delegates remained in their seats, a brave group of fifty-three men and women gathered on a nearby knoll and *The Foreign Missionary Society of the Brethren Church* was born. At that critical moment in history, *everything* was vision and hope. There were no potential missionaries waiting in the wings. There was no groundswell of support from the churches. In fact, while all 53 of the original corporation members pledged their financial support, only \$35.00 was collected during that first year!

Much has changed over the past 114 years. Encompass World Partners left the margins of Brethren attention and activity to occupy a central place in the global outreach efforts of our movement. Today we enjoy the support of over 80% of the member churches of the FGBC-USA, as they actively partner with us in praying, sending and supporting cross-cultural workers in twenty countries. While in recent years we recruited a few workers from outside our 'tribe', the majority of our staff is homegrown, and the majority of giving toward our \$8 million budget comes from Grace Brethren sources. (Please see Appendix 1 for a list of countries where our movement is currently engaged, along with statistics for Points of Light and established churches.)

But to avoid weighing you down with more numbers,¹ suffice it to say that Encompass World Partners continues to enjoy the strong support of our partner churches, continues to deploy cross-cultural workers among the least-reached of our world, and continues to plant the DNA of our movement wherever new churches are taking root. We view the confidence you place in us as a 'sacred trust,' and continue to pledge ourselves before God and you to behave as faithful stewards of that trust.

At the same time, all of us are witnesses to the reality that we live in a world where change is the new normal. Those who resist change are waking up to find they are increasing irrelevant. But organizational change does not come easy. As Peter Drucker masterfully observed, "The major obstacle to organizational growth is management's inability to change their attitudes and behavior as rapidly as their organization requires."

Over the past few years, we have initiated a series of changes at Encompass designed to position us for more fruitful ministry. The more visible changes include rebranding and relocation. But we also invested significantly to improve our ability

¹ Financial records and statistical information are available upon request by any of our corporation members. Corporation membership is open to members in good standing of Grace Brethren Churches who contribute at least \$50.00 per calendar year to any of our ministries.

to recruit and train a new generation of leaders, we have implemented innovative changes to our financial model, and we have reached out to assist ethnic minority leaders in North America.

As far-reaching as some of these changes might seem, they are only the first steps in a process of re-conceptualizing, reorganizing and retooling. These three words summarize our quest to remain a relevant and fruitful tool as the cross-cultural ministries arm of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches. I look forward to sharing more details in my oral report.

Allow me to close this report with a quick review of the Vision, Mission, and Values of Encompass World Partners:

VISION

To spread the knowledge and glory of God among the least reached of our world.

MISSION

To mobilize, equip, deploy and nurture multinational teams of disciple-makers who live and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ through engaging in sacrificial service, intentional evangelism and whole-life discipleship, resulting in the creation of healthy spiritual communities (churches).

CORE VALUES:

Relentless pursuit of the Great Commission in all of its implications
Prayer that leads to vision that leads to Risk-taking faith
Valuing individuals And empowering teams
The glory of the Church as God's plan for this age
Strive for Excellence in all we do

I realize these statements represent many words packed with lots of meaning. I trust that closer examination will once again encourage you that we take our mandate seriously. But there is a shorter way to summarize our priorities, and we like to state it as follows:

More fruitful disciple-making teams.

Please take a moment to read these words four times, pausing with each reading to emphasize a different word. We think these four words effectively capture how we at Encompass World Partners can best bless the global GBC movement. And we hope you agree!

Committed to serve, to shepherd and to steward,

Dr. Dave Guiles
Executive Director

Appendix 1: GBC Global Statistics as of April 2013

Reg	Country	Churches	Points of Light
		2013	2013
AFRICA	C.A.R.	2740	306
	Cameroon	42	38
	Chad	180	173
	Dem Rep Congo	7	8
	Nigeria	9	17
	Sudan	0	4
	Cambodia	8	24
ASIA	Iraq	0	0
	Japan	2	4
	Kyrgyzstan	1	0
	Philippines	9	15
	Russia	1	1
	Thailand	1	0
	Turkey	0	1
	Vietnam	0	0
	Czech Republic	1	0
	England	2	0
EUROPE	France	5	5
	Germany	3	3
	Ireland	1	0
	Portugal	4	1
	Spain	0	1
	Argentina	22	7
	Brazil	38	35
LATIN AMERICA	Chile	1	1
	Cuba		
	Guatemala	1	0
	Haiti	8	0
	Mexico	17	24
	Nicaragua	0	3
	Paraguay	0	1
	Uruguay	1	0
	US Total Churches		
NA	Totals	3104	672
NA	US Ethnic Minority	44	