

COMINAD Unveils Adopt-A-Village Project

ORLANDO

Over 50 members of the Cooperative Missions Network of the African Dispersion (COMINAD) met on April 9-12, 2001 at Wycliffe's Bible Translators' Center for a conference that challenged all attendees to participate in the development process of the Adopt-A-Village (AAV) project. Envisioned by Brian Johnson, COMINAD's national coordinator, AAV is all about "building relationships between villages in Africa and the churches in the West, for the purpose of furthering God's Kingdom," Johnson said.

Participants included representatives from a range of ministries, including Wycliffe, SIM, USCWM, YWAM, Africa Christian Fellowship-USA, the Center for Urban Theological Studies,

Reconciliation Ministries Network, Carver International Missions, South Africa Inland Missions, National Black Evangelical Association and Campus Crusade. They were asked to take part in a "nuts and bolts" type meeting to plot a workable way to make the vision reality.

"I feel like I got a peek into a Kingdom Construction planning meeting around the throne," said one participant. Some challenging issues that were covered during this development phase included coordinating a networking system, choosing a village to adopt, designing AAV to not be a burden to mission agencies and avoiding inherent problems of exploitation, paternalism, denominationalism and sectarianism.

COMINAD by e-mail: IAAMM@aol.com

Bible League and Adopt-a-People Clearinghouse Merge

Aiming to enhance the goals of both ministries, The Bible League and the Adopt-A-People Clearinghouse have announced plans for a merger to be completed by early 2002.

"This merger will greatly increase discipleship training around the world by enabling a greater number of unreached people groups to be introduced to the Word," said Dennis Mulder, President of The Bible League.

The Bible League was founded in 1938 and to make Scripture available through training and supplying local churches for evangelism and discipleship.

The Clearinghouse was formed in 1989, (initially based at the U.S. Center for World Mission) and provides resources on the world's

unreached people groups with resources for "adopting" them through prayer, partnership, provision and personnel.

Up and Coming

COMING TOGETHER FOR UNITY

In what has been described as the most comprehensive meeting of mission workers in over 40 years, a broad spectrum of mission associations will join with relief and development associations and others for a convention entitled

"Godsmission.commUNITY." Meeting September 20-23 in Haines City, Florida, the focus on unity will look for "new pathways for collaborative global ministry."

On the web: www.godsmission.com
E-mail: GMC@wheaton.edu

NEW TOOLS

The International Society for Frontier Missiology (ISFM) will hold its annual conference on September 19 & 20 in Orlando, Florida. Patrick Johnstone (*Operation World*) and Todd Johnson (*World Christian Encyclopedia*) will join a number of other speakers to discuss "New Tools in the Toolbox."

On the web: www.isfm.bigstep.com
E-mail: slee@kacwm.org

AFRICANS FOR MISSION

African Christian Fellowship-USA will hold their biennial convention at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio on August 1-5, 2001. Over 1000 attendees are expected, largely first generation Africans in the United States.

On the web: www.acfusa.net

Obituary

A Lost Voice for the Martyrs

Pastor Richard Wurmbrand, the Romanian founder of The Voice of the Martyrs, died on February 17, 2001, in Glendale, California, after a long illness.

Born March 24, 1909, in Bucharest, Romania, Wurmbrand came to faith through the Anglican Mission in Bucharest, eventually pastoring the Norwegian Lutheran Mission there.

He was kidnapped by Romanian authorities in February 1948 and imprisoned in Bucharest. He was subjected to brainwashing attempts, physical and mental torture and threats to his family. His wife, Sabina, was imprisoned for three years as well.

After a release, Wurmbrand was rearrested in 1959 and sentenced to 25 additional years. Pressure from Western countries led to his release in 1964. Although reluctant to leave Romania, he then heeded the council of Romanian underground church leaders, who

convinced him to leave and become a "voice" for the underground church to the world.

In October 1967 he published the first issue of "The Voice of the Martyrs" newsletter and began to establish the international offices which would assist him in efforts to inform Christians everywhere about persecuted Christians. By the mid-1980s his work was established in 80 restricted nations with offices in 30 countries.



Richard Wurmbrand
1909-2001

An author of 18 books in English, he is widely recognized for *Tortured for Christ*, the recount of his experiences in prison. He had returned to Romania in 1990 and retired from day-to-day work at Voice of the Martyrs in 1992. Tom White is the current director of VOM. Wurmbrand is survived by his son, Michael Wurmbrand, and three grandchildren.

www.persecution.com