



INTRODUCING

# THE Global Network

OF MISSION STRUCTURES

David Packiam

**F**inally ... a Global Network of Mission Structures has been called forth!

Prompted by initial discussions at the Singapore 2002 Unreached Peoples Consultation, a group of 28 delegates from older and newer agencies gathered in Amsterdam April 18-21, 2005 to found the Global Network of Mission Structures (GNMS). Since the Edinburgh meetings of 1910 and 1980, no non-invitational gatherings of mission leaders had been held which were open to all the agencies of the world sending equal delegates, nor had any other gatherings “called” for the establishment of a global-level network of strictly mission structures. As such, the Global Network of Mission Structures is reinvigorating the rich tradition of the International Missionary Council in the first half of the 20th century. (See page 11, “Historical Precedents and Foundations.”)

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ers. By contrast, the *delegate format* – where each participant represents and is delegated by his or her own agency – allows a leader from a newly-formed, 30-member agency from the Global South to

While many valuable “invitation-only” global-level conferences have been conducted, these can sometimes cultivate an “elitist” status and mentality for those invited and can further separate them from grassroots leaders.

dialogue as an equal with leaders of 1000-member agencies from the West.

*National-level* associations of mission agencies – such as the Nigerian Evangelical Missions Association, the India Missions Association, and the Evangelical Fellowship of Mission Agencies (USA) – have shown great value. So have *regional* networks, such as the Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association of North America, the Asia Missions Association, and the Third World Mission Association. But none of these

are *global*, while the people groups which missions seek to reach are on the move all over the globe!

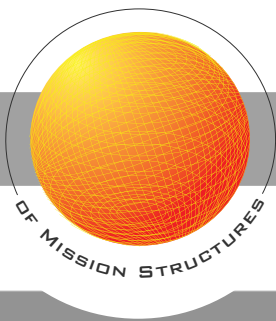
Thus, the sense of the founding group in Amsterdam was that a global network can significantly advance God’s Kingdom. Since unreached peoples are on

the move, we face a clear need to establish a global office to monitor their movement and plan for more coordinated efforts of outreach. The staffing of such a network will not necessarily be large since it can draw on many other offices and agencies in collaboration, but the sense of the Amsterdam group was that a closer networking of agencies, missiologists, and others – including sister organizations on a global level – is needed.

Furthermore, while it is a splendid thing for church leaders to network on the global level to better discern the potential outreach of congregations, the specialized task of missions has often gotten lost in the shuffle of many such gatherings and in the many worthy activities of churches. “We want to maintain the cutting-edge vision of specifically *mission structures* themselves,” Amsterdam participants noted.



# THE Global Network



Amsterdam,  
April 18-21, 2005

Founding Delegates,  
Registrants

Country	Representative	Mission Structure
England	Lanny Arensen	AIM, Africa Inland Mission International
	Peter Maiden	OM, Operation Mobilisation*
Germany	Burkhard Schoettelndreyer	WBTI, Wycliffe Bible Translators
Ghana	James Adebayo Famonure	AMEN, Agape Missions & Ev. Network*
India	Jinukuty Emmanuel	IGSM, International Gospel & Social work
	Krishnasamy Rajendran	IMA, India Missions Association*
	Nungshisosang Kika Jamir	NCM, Neighbour's Concern Mission
South Korea	Jung (Paul) Kook Han	UPMA, Unreached People Mission Alliance
	Sung-Sam Kang	KWMA, Korean World Missions
Malaysia	David Packiam	MMN, Malaysia Missions Network
Mexico	James Edward Heimberger	The Missionary Cooperation of Mexico
Nigeria	Gabriel Lohven Barau	MCM, Missionary Crusades Ministries
	Timothy O. Olonade	NEMA, Nigeria Evangelical Missions
	Martins Odutola Adewole	ZWPM, Zion World Prayer & Missions
Peru	Juan Marcos Ravelo	AMEN, NEWMA
Singapore	Ian Prescott	OMF International
	Lorraine Wendy Dierck	WOI, World Outreach International
Spain	Gina Fadely	YWAM, Youth with a Mission
United Arab Emirates	Grimmer Daniel	TAM, Tell Asia Ministries Inc.
USA	Chong H. Kim	Band Barnabas
	Don Eenigenburg	Charstar
	Ralph D. Winter	FMF, Frontier Mission Fellowship
	Timothy Lewis	Frontiers Inc.
	Yong-Joong Cho	Global Partners/TWMA, Third World
	Scott Holste	IMB, International Mission Board
	Ronald Harry Wismer	MAF, Mission Aviation Fellowship
	David Hupp	MUP, Mission to Unreached Peoples
	Jon Christopher Shuler	NAMS, New Anglican Missionary Society
	David Jerrell Brooks	SIL International
	Malcolm McGregor	SIM International
	Greg Parsons	USCWM, U.S. Center for World Mission

\*Three agencies registered to attend but were hindered at the last minute.

How to achieve such a task and nurture the Global Network? Today we have more tools than ever, including the Internet, to nurture connections, information-sharing, and other forms of learning among agencies. The founding documents at Amsterdam noted, "The idea is for all 'frontier-active' mission structures—wherever located—to become equal members with each other. Small, newer structures can belong and be full members."

After discussion, Amsterdam delegates agreed to speak primarily of mission "structures" because such a term is more comprehensive than mission "agencies." A mission statement was formulated:

## The Global Network of Mission Structures:

### Coming together to advance the Kingdom across the frontiers

The name speaks for itself: the emphasis is on unity in advancing the Kingdom towards the frontiers of the gospel. "Frontiers" includes more than unreached people groups – anything that advances God's purposes.

Many felt one "servant facilitator" would be sufficient at the beginning to promote the cause of the GNMS and to actively engage participation of a wide range of mission structures – old and new, and

from the West as well as the Global South. David Packiam was appointed GNMS administrator for a term of two years. Packiam is Chairman of the newly-formed Malaysia Missions Network and also Chairman of the Strategic Missions Program (STAMP). In addition, Packiam is Director of the Malaysian Centre for Global Mission (a missions training center), a director of Antioch Missions – Chinese Church Support Ministries, and Senior Minister of The Dwelling Place – a Ministry Centre (church) he pioneered and planted, with his wife, ten years ago.

Amsterdam delegates noted, “What the GNMS will be three years from now depends upon whether we start out boldly or not. The question of what will happen depends upon the basis of which we start.” Part of an effective beginning is to incorporate an organization to give legal standing to the network. After much discussion, it was agreed that the office of the GNMS be in Malaysia but the corporation be registered in California because of the difficulty of moving funds in and out of Malaysia.

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Amsterdam delegates also formed an initial Executive Board for the GNMS, seeking a broad representation of world regions. Nominated from continental

networks, the following were selected to serve:

Latin America – Obed Alvarez (Peru)

North America – Ralph Winter and Chong Kim (USA)

Africa – Gabriel Barau (Nigeria)

Asia/Pacific – Ian Prescott (Singapore), Yong Cho (Korea), J. Emmanuel (India)

In a “working governance model,” the GNMS Executive Board is to provide the anchor for the vision and overall operation. The terms and duties of the Executive and the larger Board will be outlined in the by-laws and articles of incorporation.

Amsterdam delegates noted that sufficient financing will be necessary for the success of the GNMS. The delegates agreed to initially encourage freewill contributions from participating agencies rather than imposing fees because the latter might hinder some agencies from joining. GNMS membership is open to all structures that classify as “frontier-active agencies” and have fulfilled minimal administrative standards. A GNMS web site has been established ([www.gnms.net](http://www.gnms.net)), to be incrementally upgraded in coming months.

Other activities and functions anticipated for the GNMS include:

1. Membership directory (web-based)
2. Information-gathering (case studies/articles) on mission structures, values, and successes
3. Identifying and discussing unique needs
4. “Discovering” new sodalities
5. Sharpening the criteria for membership
6. Improving ways for GNMS members to access the community
7. Identifying pitfalls and learning from others how to avoid them
8. Sharing of tools, knowledge, and resources
9. Sharing vision
10. Sharing experiences in internal evaluation
11. Providing models/case studies of effective ministry
12. Helping information-screening for peoples and countries
13. Clarifying GNMS uniqueness/purpose/value/place in history
14. Encouraging a 2010 Centennial Event for Edinburgh 1910
15. Sharing field contacts
16. Sharpening the GNMS cyber presence
17. Highlighting joint opportunities in promotion and jobs to be done
18. “Pointing the way” to emerging ministry opportunities

Inquirers may direct communication to David Packiam ([packiams@hotmail.com](mailto:packiams@hotmail.com)). Also note that progressively more information will be posted to the GNMS Website at [www.gnms.net](http://www.gnms.net). 🌐

