



EFCA **Seismic Shifts in Global Christianity** September 2011

Steve & Kathy Austvold, EFCA Mission Mobilizers Serving the NCD, NPD, and Beyond

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Dear Pastors and mission leaders,

The seismic shifts in global Christianity is the sixth and final global issue that was addressed at the Lausanne Conference last fall. This key issue will affect the church in the next decade. Partnerships are a key interest of North American churches. This sixth issue shows us, the western Church, that there is great potential for Kingdom partnership and growth with Majority World believers in this decade. Here is the Lausanne description of this key issue.

Seismic Shifts in Global Christianity. Global PARTNERSHIPS for world evangelization, unlike anything possible in the previous twenty centuries, are now attainable as we develop relationships that are based on mutual respect – acknowledging that God has called us to be one in Him. These new partnerships, increasingly led by visionary leaders from the majority world, will also involve more lay people who comprise the vast majority of those who bear witness to Christ in this Century. By sharing the best available resources and best practices, together “the whole church (will) take the whole gospel to the whole world.”

ReachGlobal has over 100 national partnerships around the world today. This is a tremendous increase in the past number of years. These Global Partnerships are being developed through relationship building that is based on mutual respect. This is exactly what the Lausanne Conference is talking about which are often led by national visionary leaders.

So what can churches do to develop partnerships with national partners?

- First, find out as much as you can about what ReachGlobal is doing with national partnerships. Contact Andy Krause who can give you needed information. Andy.Krause@efca.org .
- Help your church grow in its understanding of mission partnerships. ReachGlobal has developed a five week online course called “Healthy Mission Partnerships.” Go to the Reach Global Equip site <http://equip.efca.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=23838>. You can also contact equip@efca.org for further information. This would be an excellent course for your mission team to take together. This is an online course. The cost is \$50 per person.
- We, the Austvold’s, have also developed an introductory four hour seminar on “Introduction to Mission Partnerships” that we can present in your local church.
- Go on a mission vision trip to your area of interest in the world.
- Attend an existing mission partnership summit or forum to see what mission partnerships can do by working together with other like minded EFCA churches. One example is the Congo consortium that meets several times a year.
- Find out what other churches in your area are doing with mission partnerships.
- Read Well Connected by Phil Butler. This is a good “how-to” book for anyone who is serious about mission partnerships.

- For churches that need general mission direction as to mission partnerships or other questions about how to start or where to go, you should go through the seminar “Developing a Mission Strategy That Fits Your Local Church.” This is a six hour seminar that is done on a weekend for local church leaders and mission team members. We can help your church with this seminar.
- Develop deeper relationships with your current supported missionaries. They might be great resources for developing deeper national partnerships where they serve.
- Pray as to what next steps God might be calling your church to take this year.
Let us know how we can serve you and your church!

Blessings,
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