

FINISHING THE TASK

First Steps in Engaging Unreached People Groups

I. SELECT ONE TO FIVE UNENGAGED, UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS FOR POTENTIAL MINISTRY

A. Who Are They?

1. “Unreached” – Less than 2% evangelical believers
2. “Unengaged” – No one is trying to reach them
3. Some have no congregations and no believers
4. Some have no scriptures and no tools for evangelism

B. Why Commit to More Than One Group?

1. Because you can influence other churches to participate
2. Because some groups are currently closed because of war

C. What Help is Available?

A group of FTT “Advisors” is available to help provide national contacts in the country of your group. commit@finishingthetask.com

II. APPOINT AN UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP “CHAMPION” FOR THE CHURCH

A. The Senior Pastor Should Appoint a Person to Lead All Aspects of this New Outreach

B. The “Champion” Should Recruit a Team of People Who will do the Following:

1. Mobilize prayer support.
2. Research the people group
3. Raise finances
4. Recruit team members to help with communications, logistics, training, finance, reporting, supervision, travel, and coordination
5. Help meet the physical needs of the UUPG
6. Recruit short-term teams
7. Connect with mission organizations to find workers in the target country
8. Develop a plan with the senior pastor to convey vision and burden for the UUPG to the whole congregation

III. TAKE A SURVEY TRIP

A. The Senior Pastor and “Champion” Should Take a Survey Trip Together with Key Laymen (3-6 people)

B. Purpose of Trip:

1. To confirm in the heart of the pastor that this is the group to commit to reaching
2. To identify potential partners in local churches in the region, or capital city, indigenous mission groups, etc., who can be the day-by-day workers.
3. To pray for the group and verify the research
4. To identify “a person of peace” (Matthew 10:11)
5. Determine physical needs of the people group
6. To get pictures of the people to challenge and give vision to the church
7. To assess the language situation, find interpreters, etc.
8. To check on availability of tools, workers, and Scripture

IV. RECRUIT AND TRAIN THE WORKERS

- A. Find a Near-culture Indigenous Church, Mission, etc. Who can be Your Partner
- B. Ask Your Partner to Plan the Strategy with You
- C. Find Out if there is an Indigenous Coalition of Churches or Mission Organizations who are Attempting to Reach UUPG's in the Country
There are nearly 100 coalitions of mission organizations meeting throughout the world. Contact Phil Butler with **visionSynergy** to find out when the next coalition meeting will be held to discuss groups in your area of interest.
pbutler@visionsynergy.net
- D. Determine How your Workers will be Supported -- Expatriates or Nationals
- E. Determine What Roles the Members of Your Church will Play in Reaching the Group

V. DETERMINE THE EVANGELISM AND CHURCH PLANTING STRATEGY YOU WILL USE AND THE TOOLS AND TRAINING NEEDED

- A. Is the Scripture Translated?
StoryRunners and the OneStory Partnership will be available to help you develop a written translation or, more likely, they can give training to the workers you recruit in how to do Chronological Bible Storying. Developing a base of 60 stories would be a first step toward an "Oral Bible." **www.storyrunners.com; www.epicpartners.org**
- B. Is There a JESUS Film or Global Recording Available?
 - 1. The JESUS Film Project will help your church develop a translation for use among your UUPG if none is available. **www.jesusfilm.org**
 - 2. The Global Recordings Network can be reached at **www.gospelrecordings.com**.
- C. Who will Recruit, Train, and Supervise the Workers?
 - 1. Determine if you can send long-term workers from your church
 - 2. Use training resources available in the field (e.g.; Jim Bowman at **james@siu.tuccoxmail.com**).
 - 3. Look for partnering organizations to do local supervision

VI. CONCLUSION

These are the first five steps in getting started in a new initiative toward reaching an unreached people group. Once your survey trip has been completed, you will be able to more intelligently develop a long-range plan toward helping this group to hear the gospel. And, in one more corner of the world, there will no longer be a group of men, women, and children who do not have access to the wonderful message of eternal life in Christ.