

## The Need for Community Missions

The population of the world is growing exponentially at a great rate.

The global human population will reach **8.0 billion** in mid-November 2022, coming from an estimated 2.5 billion people in 1950, adding 1 billion people since 2010 and 2 billion since 1998. Church of God World Missions embraces our commission to go into all the world to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. However, at this current rate of births, we must be strategic and prayerful to accomplish what Jesus commissions all Christians to do.

World Missions General Director, M. Thomas Propes, has initiated the creation of Community Missions, as an arm of World Missions, through which churches, pastors, and laity can be unified in the strategy of completing the Great Commission. The work of Community Missions will be comprehensive to reach the last, the least, and the lost. It will be practical as it focuses on three key elements. First, Physical needs such as medical care, nutritious food, and clean water. Secondly, Material needs such as shelter, clothing, and shoes. Thirdly, Spiritual needs of salvation, discipleship, and church planting. It has been said that the Biblical way to reach all people, everywhere, can only be done through the involvement of ALL of God's people. "A church is responsible for its community, nation, and world."

What is Community?

Perhaps we narrowly think community signifies unity, a common bond, or geographical significance. But maybe we should consider community in the broader light of "six degrees of separation," or that "anyone on the planet can be connected to anyone through a series of only six social connections." Our sphere of influence – our common community is both intimate in size and larger in geographical area than we tend to think.

Community Missions is an arm of the church to put legs on prayers, helping hands on the wounded and action into the lives of all Christians who must obey the Great Commission. Who will teach the children to love God and follow in respect to the command to preach the Gospel, heal the hurting, and allow miracles of God to transform the lives of non-believers? Who will prepare and lead teenagers into energetic acts of service for God? Who will young adults follow to be the hands and feet of God in providing gifts from their labor and a powerful eye-opening vision of the fruit of the spirit as their weapon of spiritual warfare.

Today, we are asking you to pray for the peoples of the world and engage in activities that care for others as well as being strategic about bringing the good news to all people.

- Pray for workers to answer the call of the Great Commission.
- Talk about missions participation with fellow believers.
- Create and participate in strategic events that testify to the command to obey the Great Commission.
- Display the "burden and calling" that God puts in your heart.
- Listen to a Community Mission Representative with whom you can pray and share your vision, as well as hear their heart to reach the "community" with whom God has connected you.

We are not our own, we have been bought with a precious price.

Grady Murphy

Coordinator of Community Missions

Church of God World Missions