



# Growing Healthy and Strong

North America

## UNITED STATES

**D**octors check vital signs and ask questions in order to intelligently assess a patient's health. After making their assessment, they reach a diagnosis and prescribe a remedy. With faithful obedience to the doctors' orders, patients grow healthy and strong over a period of time.

In a similar manner, leading church growth "doctors" have taken the vital statistics on thousands of churches across America. These experts state that eighty-five percent of all churches in America have plateaued or are declining in their growth. Many of these same churches are also spiritually unhealthy. The diagnosis has been made: Churches in the United States are gravely ill!

Church growth experts are developing ways to lead churches into health. After compiling statistics taken from surveys of 1,000 churches worldwide, Christian Schwarz of Natural Church Development (NCD), identified eight key qualities necessary for churches to maintain good health. The eight qualities of a healthy church include:

1. Empowering Leadership
2. Gift-oriented Ministry
3. Passionate Spirituality
4. Functional Structures
5. Inspiring Worship Service
6. Holistic Small Groups
7. Need-oriented Evangelism
8. Loving Relationships<sup>1</sup>

Schwarz and others have noted that healthy churches are those churches that have developed balanced ministries in each of these eight areas.

With only 1,973 Alliance congregations throughout the country as of the year 2001, church planting continues to be a huge part of the Alliance work in the United States. Since the early 1990s, National Church Ministries (NCM) of the C&MA has partnered and purposed with district leaders to not only plant, but to grow *healthy* Great Commission churches<sup>2</sup>, setting goals to take existing churches to excellent health. The objectives of NCM can be reduced to five words: *winning, building, equipping, multiplying* and *sending*. "We are so convinced of the biblical soundness of this approach that we as-

## FAST FACTS . . . FAST FACTS . . .

North America

### United States

- ◆ In the past 10 years all Protestant denominations declined almost 10%—a loss of nearly 4.5 million people; during that same time period, the U.S. population increased by over 11%.
- ◆ The United States is the third largest mission field in the world, with 195 million unchurched Americans.
- ◆ Of the 350,000 churches in the United States, only 2.2% experience conversion growth.

Source: Power Point presentation compiled by Bob Logan and Tom Clegg of ChurchSmart Resources.

### Canada

- ◆ Canadian Alliance churches are arranged into six regional districts: Canadian Pacific, Western Canadian, Canadian Midwest, Central Canadian, Eastern Canadian and St. Lawrence.
- ◆ In order to reach all of the diverse peoples of Canada, the Alliance has created four national multicultural associations, which cross district lines. They are: First Nations Alliance Churches of Canada, Canadian Chinese Alliance Churches Committee, Vietnamese Canadian Alliance Fellowship and the Conference of Filipino Alliance Ministries.

Source: "Where We Are," The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada. Available on-line at: <<http://www.cmacan.org/index.html>>.

### Intercultural Ministries

The United States Census of 2000 says . . .

- ◆ Thirty-one percent of the population of the United States is comprised of ethnic people.
- ◆ Hispanics represent 12.5% of the population, with African-Americans coming in at a close 12.1% and Asians making up 3.6%.
- ◆ Population projections state that over the next 60 years the Asian population of the U.S. will swell to 42 million, while the Hispanic population will rise to 115 million.

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# NORTH AMERICA, INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES, IFAP, AWF

## FIELD FACTS

sert that the laying of a foundation of balanced ministry priorities is both prerequisite and nonnegotiable if a church is going to experience health and reproduction vitality.”<sup>3</sup>

Natural Church Ministries realized that planting churches and developing new ministries are worthless efforts if people are not rescued from an eternity without Jesus. NCM firmly states, “Our objective is nothing less than a denomination of healthy churches that together are forming a powerful, radical advocacy for the lost in America and around the world.”<sup>4</sup> When churches are healthy, every church—big or small—can participate in the sharing of the gospel and can play a strategic role in supporting the Great Commission.

### CANADA

In 1885, John Salmon, a young Scottish immigrant living in Canada, left his Toronto pastorate to launch an independent ministry to the “least, last and lost.” That same year he met Albert B. Simpson, a young pastor spreading the good news to the poor and neglected masses of the United States. The men became fast friends and within a few years, feeling a deep sense of urgency to take the gospel message to all nations, were used by God to give birth to The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

It started out as a “mission society,” but by the 1920s The Christian and Missionary Alliance became a major evangelical movement in both the U.S. and Canada. Throughout the next few decades the movement continued to grow steadily and by 1961 there were 228 churches in Canada.

In 1981 The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada became autonomous. The Canadian body had 251 churches, 44,549 inclusive members, 436 official workers and 112 missionaries. By 1987 the Canadian missionary count had surged ahead from 112 to 204.<sup>5</sup>

Today, The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada is putting great emphasis on the growth and multiplication of healthy Great Commission churches. In his biennial report, C&MA Canada president Dr. Franklin Pyles stated, “We identify church growth strategically as being specifically targeted toward Canada’s major population centers, and in thirty years envision three churches of over 25,000 people in weekend attendance, and ten others in the 10,000 to 15,000 range, with a number of churches of 1,000 to 2,000. These pastoral churches will minister as huge beacons of light shining into the world around them, delivering the transforming message of Christ in both word and deed.”<sup>6</sup>

### Intercultural Ministries

Ministering to people of all cultures and walks of life has been the primary focus of The Christian and Missionary Alliance since its early days. Today that connection still exists as the Alliance in the United States puts a special emphasis on assisting five distinct peo-

## FAST FACTS . . . FAST FACTS . . .

- ◆ More Armenians live in Los Angeles than in any city of the world.
- ◆ More Jews live in America than in Israel.
- ◆ More than 100 million immigrants live in the United States.

Source: Intercultural Ministries. “The Ethnic Population in the U.S.” Available on-line at: <<http://www.cmalliance.org/churches/intercultural/population.htm>>.

### International Fellowship of Alliance Professionals (IFAP)

- ◆ Over half of the unreached people in the world live in 70 countries not accessible to career missionaries.
- ◆ IFAP professionals work in 15 countries throughout the world.
- ◆ Currently 67 people from the United States serve under IFAP and are committed to long-term service.
- ◆ IFAP professionals are employed as university professors, engineers, technical support people, medical personnel, directors of development and relief and business managers.

Source: The Christian and Missionary Alliance, “Special Ministries.” *Prayer Connection 2003-2004*. (Colorado Springs, CO: The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 2003), p. 179.

### Alliance World Fellowship (AWF)

- ◆ The AWF binds together over 2 million Christians from 50 nations and 5 continents of the world.
- ◆ AWF approaches missions through the use of technology, global strategies, management techniques and particularly partnership and empowerment of the work force.
- ◆ AWF meets every four years to perpetuate and reinforce its goal of assisting churches and furthering missionary endeavors through a variety of unconventional means.

Source: “Alliance World Fellowship.” Available on-line at: <<http://www.allianceworldfellowship.org/>>.

ple groups. African-American, Arab, Hispanic, Jewish and Native American people groups all receive support through the National Church Ministry (NCM) office. The primary focus of NCM is to “assist intercultural districts and associations to become a movement of Great Commission Christians.”<sup>7</sup>

Coming alongside intercultural ministry groups means first planting and developing healthy churches among the first generations of these five people groups. As churches are established, the Alliance provides recruitment and training for men and women willing to plant churches among those in second- and third-generation settings. According to the National Church Ministries Web site, “Second and Third Generations have special needs and different expectations than their first-generation parents. They prefer worship in English and have their own second-generation leaders. They need to be accepted and affirmed by first-generation leaders. They need strong biblical teaching related to their culture and needs.”<sup>8</sup> Providing trained leaders who understand the special needs of this population makes planting a healthy church much more feasible.

In addition to the five intercultural groups targeted by NCM, there are several intercultural districts within North America. One of the largest of the Asian districts is the Chinese, with approximately seventy Chinese churches spread across the United States. Over the last ten years twenty-one new churches began, and there are more than 120 pastors working among the congregations. Although the average age of a senior pastor in these churches is close to fifty, more than seventy percent of the church workers are between the ages of thirty and forty-nine. The Chinese church is grateful for a team of workers who are mature enough to have much-needed experience and young enough to cope with changes.

An old Chinese saying states, “Where in the world you find river flowing, you’ll find Chinese.” With the social and economic changes in China over the last decade, more and more Chinese people are able to move to different parts of the world to study or conduct business, further validating the old proverb. The Chinese Alliance Church in the United States believes that God has blessed the Chinese churches in America so abundantly that it is time for them to take up the responsibility to reach out to the many Chinese throughout the world. Currently fifteen pastors and families have gone to seven countries to minister to Chinese communities. Five more coworkers are in the process of preparing to go out, joining with their denomination to “Get it Done” for the sake of Christ Jesus.

## International Fellowship of Alliance Professionals (IFAP)

Over one-half of the unreached people groups in the world live in countries not accessible to career missionaries. The International Fellowship of Alliance Professionals (IFAP) was established in 1980 to mobilize committed Alliance lay professionals for effective witness in a cross-cultural setting through secular employment. Unlike traditional career missionaries, IFAP does not send or appoint Alliance professionals; instead, it operates as a liaison and resource for professionals. IFAP workers can be employed by businesses or government agencies working in other countries, or they may work for schools or agencies owned by the host country.<sup>9</sup>

The operation of IFAP differs from traditional Alliance ministries around the world so that the professionals can work in strategic regions where a missionary presence is prohibited. Their duties are as varied as the nations in which they serve. Some workers go as teachers of English, others work as business professionals in major corporations, while still others serve

as cooks in tiny hospitals. Whatever the job, IFAP tentmakers couple their profession with their love for the Lord and their burning desire to see the lost saved. In contrast to missionaries who go to a foreign field under the Great Commission Fund, IFAP professionals must support themselves. Often they receive funding through job compensations or raise support from home and district churches.

As tentmakers utilize their profession as a catalyst for evangelization, they have many opportunities that are not always provided through the traditional missionary model. First and foremost these men and women are called by God to be ambassadors in their workplace through their professions. This often means working with foreign professionals in senior-level positions. As one IFAP worker says, “I believe it is essential to be the best businessperson I can be, showing integrity and doing a good job so that I can be a good example.”

Tentmaking also makes it possible for workers to serve the local church in a variety of ways, depending upon the country they are working in and the circumstances within that country. Sometimes tentmakers help to establish new churches in their cities or towns. Other opportunities may include leading evangelistic or discipleship Bible studies, participating in a worship team or teaching Sunday school for the local church. At times the best outreach has been simply attending a local church and supporting the Christians who, in some cases, risk their lives to worship God.

IFAP provides a formal organization for tentmakers so they can be connected to a larger fellowship of believers. For many tentmakers loneliness is the greatest difficulty experienced as they often work alone or with few other believers. Some professionals travel for weeks, working on projects in small towns and staying in dingy hotels, with no friends or fellowship

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nearby. As tentmakers operate in countries antagonistic toward Christianity, often there are no churches for worship. The International Fellowship provides a connection to the world Alliance family, allowing workers to stay connected with an overall strategy and vision for reaching the world's untold millions.

### Alliance World Fellowship (AWF)

Nearly fifty years ago the roots of the Alliance World Fellowship sprouted. By 1975 the Fellowship was officially organized in Nyack, New York. The original intent of this association of national churches was to provide "mutual encouragement and counsel in developing strong national churches."<sup>10</sup> Today AWF unites over 2 million Christians from fifty nations and five continents of the world.<sup>11</sup>

Over the last twenty-five years the Fellowship has grown and become increasingly more missions-centered. No longer

are North American countries the only missions-sending organizations. Over half of the nations now involved with AWF send out their own missionaries. Additionally, some are focusing on unreached people groups within their own countries and throughout the world. Through AWF's encouragement and vision, the desire to reach the lost with the hope and salvation found in Jesus Christ has been caught and shared with even the smallest congregations in remote regions across the globe so that they all can participate in the Great Commission.<sup>12</sup>

#### Notes

1. "What Does a Healthy Church Look Like?" Prepared by Rev. John W. Fogal, Sr., certified coach with Natural Church Development. Synopsis of material presented in *Natural Church Development* by Christian Schwarz (St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 1996).
2. "Healthy Church Development." National Church Ministries. Available on-line at: <<http://www.cmalliance.org/churches/multiplication/develop.htm>>.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. "Our Story," The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada. Available on-line at: <<http://www.cmacan.org/story.html>>.
6. Franklin Pyles, "Biennial Report of the President to General Assembly 2002." Available on-line at: <[http://www.cmacan.org/2\\_presidents\\_report.pdf](http://www.cmacan.org/2_presidents_report.pdf)>.
7. "Intercultural Ministries." Available on-line at: <<http://www.cmalliance.org/churches/intercultural.htm>>.
8. Ibid.
9. "International Fellowship of Alliance Professionals." International Ministries/Missions. Available on-line at: <<http://www.cmalliance.org/missions/serve/ifap.htm>>.
10. "Special Ministries." *Prayer Connection 2003-2004*. (Colorado Springs, CO: The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 2003), p. 180.
11. Information available on-line at: <<http://www.allianceworldfellowship.org/>>.
12. "Special Ministries." *Prayer Connection 2003-2004*. (Colorado Springs, CO: The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 2003), p. 180.

## Resource Materials (continued on page 31)

### Alliance Life

#### Canada

- Beach, Joanne. "Discipling One Woman at a Time: Sonlife Ministries Transforms Alliance Women in Canada," May 2002, p. 36.
- Lightbody, C. Stuart. "Canada's New D-Team: Christ's Power Can Curb Our Appetites," June 2002, p. 32.
- Lightbody, C. Stuart. "The Church Moves Forward in Canada: New Church Plants Are Integral Means of Reaching Lost and Broken People," May 2002, p. 37.
- Lightbody, C. Stuart. "The River Is Flowing: The C&MA in Canada Has Embraced a New Thrust for Change," February 2003, p. 36.
- Reed, Eleanor. "It's Never Too Late: Keeping a Promise Can Have Eternal Consequences," October 2002, p. 14.
- Willems, Al. "College of Prayer: Mobilizing Prayer among Local Churches in Canada," January 2002, p. 36.
- Wilson, Larry. "Offering Lasting Hope: First Nations Family Ministries Project 2001," January 2002, p. 37.

#### United States

- Burgo, Peter. "Peace at the Pumps: A Virginia Congregation Put Itself in Harm's Way for the Love of Its Community," January 2003, p. 16.

- Hesselgrave, David J. "Alliance Missions in the Spotlight: This Is a Critical Hour for the Progress of World Evangelization," September 2002, p. 12.
- Hettinger, Susan. "Reluctant Obedience: God Used Imperfect and Fearful People to Reach a Community," December 2002, p. 30.
- Jefferson, Dena. "Losing to Win: An Unlikely Road to Church Growth," January 2002, p. 18.
- Jones, Tricia A. "To the Least of These: Taking a Risk to Reach Inner-City Children," January 2003, p. 20.
- Musko, Ken. "The Spark and the Spirit of Marriage Encounter: Marriage Ministry Finds New Life in Renewal Cruises and Seminars," February 2002, p. 20.
- Smith, Terry D. "Miracle in the Mountains: God Is Changing Lives in a Small, West Virginia Town," April 2003, p. 22.
- Spader, Larry. "Victory in Jesus: God Gave Us a Vision to Reach Our Country," June 2002, p. 34.
- Wimberly, Sarah. "I'm Making an Impact? Your Witness for Christ Is Bigger than You Imagine," October 2002, p. 32.

#### International Fellowship of Alliance Professionals

- Alliance Life* Staff. "Call Me 'Happy': How a Young Woman's Life Changed after She Met Jesus," January 2003, p. 26.

## Resources

### Arabic

#### Recipes:

- <http://www.arabicslice.com/main.html>
- <http://www.arabicnews.com/recipes/recipes.html>
- <http://almashriq.hiof.no/general/600/640/641/khayat/title.html>
- [http://www.arab.de/arab/Arts\\_Entertainment/Cooking/](http://www.arab.de/arab/Arts_Entertainment/Cooking/)

#### General:

- <http://www.hejleh.com/countries/>
- <http://www.cmalliance.org/churches/intercultural.htm>
- <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5314.htm>
- <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6804.htm>

### Hispanic

#### Recipes:

- [http://www.masterstech-home.com/The\\_Kitchen/Recipes/Recipe\\_Indices/International\\_Recipe\\_Indices/HispanicRecipes\\_Index.html](http://www.masterstech-home.com/The_Kitchen/Recipes/Recipe_Indices/International_Recipe_Indices/HispanicRecipes_Index.html)
- <http://www.interlog.com/~john13/recipes/mexican.htm>
- <http://www.geocities.com/NapaValley/1368/latin.html>

#### General:

- <http://www.cmalliance.org/churches/intercultural.htm>
- <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Parthenon/1150/paisesi.htm>
- <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/>

### Native American

#### Recipes:

- <http://www.kstrom.net/isk/food/recipes.html>
- <http://www.nativetech.org/food/>
- <http://www.thegutsgourmet.net/indian.html>
- <http://www.recipesource.com/ethnic/americas/native/>

#### General:

- <http://www.si.edu/resource/faq/nmai/start.htm>

- <http://www.greatdreams.com/native.htm>
- <http://www.nativeculture.com/lisamitten/indians.html>
- <http://www.ewebtribe.com/NACulture/>

### African-American

#### Recipes:

- <http://www.biggsuperstore.com/tbsrecipes/soulfood/>
- <http://www.einstein.edu/e3front.dll?durki=8010>
- <http://www.uky.edu/LCC/SOC/ISA/>
- <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/other/chdblack/cooking.pdf>

#### General:

- [http://www.woyaaonline.com/links/SOCIETY/AFRICAN\\_AMERICAN/more6.html](http://www.woyaaonline.com/links/SOCIETY/AFRICAN_AMERICAN/more6.html)
- <http://www.indiana.edu/~aaamc/index2.html>
- <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/intro.html>
- <http://www.si.edu/resource/faq/nmah/afroam.htm>

### Jewish

#### Recipes:

- <http://allrecipes.com/directory/918.asp>
- [http://www.recipesource.com/ethnic/non\\_regional/jewish/](http://www.recipesource.com/ethnic/non_regional/jewish/)
- <http://www.jewish-food.org/>
- <http://www.cyber-kitchen.com/rfcj/>

#### General:

- <http://www.jewishculture.org/>
- <http://ddickerson.igc.org/judaica.html>
- <http://jewishpeople.net/unitedstates.html>
- <http://www.hareshima.com/culture/culture.asp>

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## Resource Materials (continued from page 22)

### General Books

- Foster, Marilynne. *Walk Around the World*. Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, 1996.
- Johnstone, Patrick. *Operation World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1993.
- Stebbins, Tom. *Missions by the Book*. Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, 1996.

### Children's Books

- Fessenden, David. *The Waiting Missionary*. Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, 1995.

- Weinrich, Mark. *The Missionary Treasure*. Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, 1993.
- Weinrich, Mark. *Missionary—That's Right*. Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, 1995.

### Web Sites

- <http://www.cmacan.org>
- <http://www.cmalliance.org/churches.htm>
- <http://www.cmalliance.org/churches/intercultural.htm>
- <http://www.allianceworldfellowship.org/>

### Prayer Requests

#### Canada

1. That the couples who comprise the Global Ministries Leadership Team will have discernment, wisdom and unity in the face of difficult decisions concerning strategy and deployment of personnel. Pray also for wisdom in building a strategy for the care of missionaries and families.
2. That the District Missionary Consultant couples will have wisdom as they work with pastors and missions committees to develop churchwide year-round missions awareness programs in Canadian churches.
3. That the Lord would give direction to Stuart Lightbody, vice president of Canadian Ministries, as he works with multicultural leaders, Alliance Women's ministries and Christian Education ministries.
4. That Alliance church leaders would be able to develop a strong church-planting plan that will cross district lines to target major population areas.
5. That a church-planting plan will be developed to reach the Golden Horseshoe and the Lower Mainland in British Columbia as well as Montreal.
6. That God will send workers into urban, postmodern harvest fields.

#### United States

1. That Alliance churches everywhere will recapture the truth of Christ's sufficiency and the reality of Holy Spirit living.
2. That in this uncertain world the C&MA will respond in powerful and timely ways to the opportunities before it.
3. That God will unite people's hearts in ways that will allow them to put aside any issues that distract them from the work God has called them to pursue.
4. That people will joyfully embrace the C&MA's diversity, honor one another in the Lord and learn to value the rich qualities that diversity affords.
5. That God will call out hundreds of men and women to be involved in evangelistic and church-planting ministries in the United States and among the least-reached peoples of the world.
6. That the more than twelve churches who are currently without pastors will find strong leaders.

#### Intercultural Ministries

1. That funds and workers would be provided to plant churches among South Asians, Muslims, Jews and Russians.
2. That first-generation congregation leaders among the Cambodian, Hmong, Lao and Vietnamese churches will be deeply

concerned about the spiritual needs of the second- and third-generation congregants.

3. That there would be cooperation and partnership between geographical and intercultural districts in the planting of churches among the second and third generations of ethnic minorities.
4. That the Lord would bring forth more workers among the second and third generations of ethnic minorities.
5. That the seven intercultural districts (Cambodian, Korean, Haitian South, Hmong, Spanish Central, Spanish Eastern and Vietnamese) and the seven associations (African-American, Chinese, Dega, Filipino, Haitian North, Lao and Spanish Western) would succeed in their continuing endeavor not only to reach out to their own people groups overseas through church planting and leadership development, but also to encompass other unreached people groups as well.
6. That Joe Kong, director of Intercultural Ministries, would continue to seek the Lord daily for spiritual discernment and wisdom as he assists intercultural districts and associations with planting churches and handling the difficult problems within each cultural group.

#### International Fellowship of Alliance Professionals (IFAP)

1. That the more than fifty-seven IFAP professionals from the U.S. living and working in fifteen countries worldwide would have great success in spreading the gospel.
2. That IFAP personnel would be safe and healthy.
3. That IFAP personnel would be presented with many opportunities to share the gospel in their work environments as well as in their personal lives.

#### Alliance World Fellowship (AWF)

1. That the over 2 million Christians from fifty nations and five continents that are bound together by AWF would remain committed to the association's goal of working for the early return of Jesus by taking the gospel to all tribes of the world.
2. That AWF would reach its goal to update its approach to missions using modern themes such as technology, global strategies, management techniques and work force partnership and empowerment.
3. That the Christians bound together by AWF would embrace the new approaches to ministry and evangelism wholeheartedly and become true partners in missions.