

TOOL #7: Discerning Our Unique Involvement in the World

Samaria Questions: People different from us, but near

1. Are there people on the fringes of our community who are marginalized by injustice, or overlooked by the system?
 - the homeless,
 - abused women,
 - First Nations people,
 - unemployed,
 - teenage moms,
 - impoverished children,
 - high density areas with limited recreational opportunities, etc.
 - Do any of these people or situations feed the passion of prayerful individuals in our congregation? Do we have people motivated to minister amongst these people (ministries need to be passion and gift driven, not program driven)?

Who do we know amongst us with a passion for the marginalized?

2. Are there international students or immigrants living in our community, our city?
 - *What regions do they come from?*
 - Europe
 - Africa
 - South Asia
 - South-East Asia
 - East Asia
 - Latin America
 - Middle East
 - *What is their faith background?*
 - Roman Catholic
 - Muslim
 - Hindu
 - Buddhist
 - Non-religious

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- *What natural connections do we already have in our church with any of these people?*
 - Personal friends
 - Neighbours
 - Colleagues at work
 - With kids at school
 - Clients

 - *Who do we know amongst our congregational leaders with a burden for any of these groups?*
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“And Beyond” Questions; People different from us and not near us

3. Are you connected with Free Methodist (or other) missionaries from our community/region/province who need our support?
- yes
 - no
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Describe your relationship with them:

4. Are there children sponsored by members of our congregation? (i.e. Childcare, World Vision, Compassion International, etc.)
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- yes
 - no
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How:

Other:

- *Are these countries to which we should be giving our focused attention? (what determines our ‘focused’ attention?)*
 - yes
 - no

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5. Have we considered what Free Methodist World Missions is doing worldwide and how we might contribute to God’s global work most strategically?
- *Have we considered what steps we need to take to evaluate our most effective contribution?*
 - Yes
 - No
 - *How will we participate as a local church in the national vision to reach Gateway Cities?*
 - Take a lead role in a Gateway Cities Initiative
 - Partner with other churches involved in a Gateway Cities Initiative
 - Continue to support existing global ministries
6. Are there people in our congregation, or community, who come from regions/countries that are regarded as “unreached”?
- *What regions are these?*
 - Southern/Eastern Europe
 - Northern Africa
 - South Asia
 - South-East Asia
 - East Asia
 - Middle East
7. Are there spiritual leaders in our congregation who have consistently indicated a ministry burden for a particular people group or region of the world?
- *What peoples/regions/countries are these?*

8. Are there people in our congregation seriously considering cross-cultural ministry, either short-term or long-term?

- *What peoples/regions/countries are they considering for ministry?*

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- *How do their burdens correspond with what we as a church are already inclined to consider?*
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Summarizing

When we collate our answers to these questions are there some clear priorities that emerge?

In our Samaria, where should we be involved?

In the wider world, where should we be involved?

Note: If, in the course of completing this tool, you have realized that your answers contained a lot of “don’t knows”, “never thought of it like that” or “what do they mean by that?” then its possible your leadership team might profit from a specific workshop on these issues. The Director of Global and Intercultural Ministries has a 3-hour workshop designed to help understand what’s at stake and to work through possible involvement scenarios.

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Using the BUG Philosophy to determine local church priorities

The General Conference Board of Administration adopted the BUG philosophy in 2001 as a simple means of determining our international ministry priorities.

- **B**uilding and growing national leaders worldwide
- **U**nreached people groups; targeting the 15-25% of the world still without viable Christian communities
- **G**lobal stewardship: sharing of our resources in strategic ways; and recognizing and exercising our freedom to intervene via prayer and public policy for the persecuted church.

These three directions of ministry are all equally valid and complementary, one is not more important than the other. This simple acronym, however, can help a local church to determine where its focus is for international ministry – in the same way that it is being used by the FMCiC at the national level. For instance, as a national church we determined that we had very little, if any, involvement amongst unreached people groups, thus the development of the Gateway Cities Initiative.

Where are your resources being directed presently?

- Where does your money go in regards to these three directions?
- Where do the mission teams, VISA personnel, you send fit in this model?
- Where do the missionaries you support fit in this model?
- Where are your prayer resources being directed according to this model?

Answering these questions in this simple exercise will give you an idea where your focused attention is as a local church.

Is this where you want your focused attention to be?