

## WEA Mission Commission Global Mission Roundtable report 2015

Compiled by K. Rajendran



**MC Global Mission Roundtable  
All Nations College, London, 2010**

WEA Mission Commission Global Mission Roundtable created a platform and began to facilitate dialogue between major mission movements' leaders, which was

void in the missional world. The focus of the gathering was to be a platform for thinking, bonding, and to be a space where leaders can openly interact issues relating to their personal lives, challenges in their leadership, missional trends and network with other groups. The gathering intended to be small enough [approx. 50] to be able to network and open up and feel comfortable as the leaders of the major movements.

**MC Global Mission Roundtable  
Uppsala, Sweden, 2013**

The GMR created a platform where the missional, institutional and church movement leaders can be open, and build trust with each other on a communal platform.



**MC Global Mission Roundtable  
Pretoria, South Africa, 2015**



We learnt that collaboration is based on the trust-level created among the major leaders of the world. This needed time, reflection and relationship around a common

table as equals in spite of the sizes of the movements.

Therefore, WEA Mission Commission, every two years called a GMRT. Thus the first one was in All Nations College in London [2010], the second was in Sweden [2013] and the third was in Pretoria, South Africa [2015].

There were 40 plus leaders from around the globe for 4 days. The fellowship and building relationship with leaders were irreplaceably invaluable. The topical themes this time in Pretoria, South Africa were Integrity, sustainable mission, handling Christian persecution in the contemporary world.

**Focus on Integrity as Leaders:** On three different mornings there were devotion, discussions and prayer in groups on the topics of **Personal Integrity, Ministry Integrity and Leadership integrity**. Personal Integrity helped the leaders to think about their own walk with the Lord. This helped us to concentrate on our own walk with the Lord as leaders. Ministry integrity helped us to mediate on the best practices of in our own mission and interrelationship with others. Leadership integrity helped us to think about our own ethics on leadership and especially building multiple leadership as a legacy apart from preparing leaders who will carry on the mantle of a particular organisation or churches. These were very thought provoking and personal introspection during the meeting. The number of hours of discussions outside the meeting times was immeasurable during free times, walks, and dining table times. One younger leader was asking if there could be an extension of two days just to spend time with senior leaders to learn and reflect to build and pass on leadership legacy for global missions.

**Focus on Sustainability in Mission:** K. Rajendran highlighted how Sustainability in Mission was one of the key issues raised during the Sweden 2103 Roundtable, which resulted in the panel discussion in 2015. Dean Carlson, Nosayaba Tukura, Wolfgang Busing and Peter Tarantal shared insights from their continents and contexts. The panel highlighted that, apart for finances, the following pressure points also exist when it comes to ensuring sustainability in mission: Building capacity to handle the ministry; building capacities of leadership and volunteers; The relevancy of Christianity to influence society (through training, education and capacity building; Creativity and innovation; collaboration (internally and partnerships) and to be balanced with a mindset of learning organisation. Thus Sustainability focuses much beyond the financial needs of the organisations.

**Focus on the Christian Response to Persecution & Violence in the contemporary world:** In the panel, the panelists highlighted real-life stories, how they have had to deal with violence in their different

contexts and help the church in a nation develop a theology that includes a Biblical response to violence. The different topics that were addressed included Response to terrorism (with specific reference to the challenges faced in Kenya and Nigeria), Reflections on the nature of violence, Response to religious persecution, and a Response to violence in our society and homes. The conclusion of the session implored those attending the GMRT to contribute towards an understanding of what it means to represent “One Lord, one Body, one voice” when it comes to our response to violence, and our support of those who suffer as a result of it. Various action steps were also presented by the participants. Bertil Ekstrom highlighted how much is being done behind the scenes, especially also in partnership with the Religious Liberty Commission of the WEA, and through partnerships with the Refugee Highway Partnership.

**Focus on Leadership Transitions and finishing well:** The panel of people represented this thought which ended with table groups discussions. The panelists were Bill Taylor, Russ Simons, Pam Thyer, Steve Moore, Ted Essler, Adriaan Adams and Jooseop Keum. Bill Taylor opened with the statement: “Leave in a way that they will invite you back”. The panelists explored how healthy mission sustainability requires transparent leadership transition. Good governance overlaps with leadership succession planning, also highlighting the the role of the board. Some other statements from the panelists included:

- All leadership development is long range succession planning for the Kingdom;
- Leadership transition needs to be as open as absolutely possible and begin as early as Possible;
- Intentionality of leadership transition is important;
- Hand over you leadership when you are strongest;
- Having leadership transition conversations early before it becomes inevitable, and be open to the Spirit.

**Focus on Global Dialogue:** Much emphasis have had been explored on the Global South and North issues and the contribution to each other. WEA Mission Commission gave much impetus in Global Dialogue. Some appropriate sharing were led by Peter Tarnatal, Decio de Carvalho and Todd Poulter.

**Focus on Polycentric Voices in Missions:** One of the highlight was shared by Kirk Franklin [Wycliffe Australia] as his findings in his PhD thesis on the “Contemporary Trends in Mission”. Among all good things Kirk shared, the highlight was, “polycentric voices in Mission”. This was caught on in the GMRT

participants and will be expanded in the Panama 2016 consultation. This is also connected to the mission movements expanding beyond Global North and Global South contribution in today's missional world which leads us into global Dialogue.

**Focus on Learning in Communities:** Ruth Wall led us in thinking further than just formal and informal learning as learning in communities. This highlighted the need for continuous learning organisations in our mission, church and institutional circles.

**Focus on Movements and Collaborations:** A very significant time was dedicated with movement leaders from the World Evangelical Alliance Bishop Ef Tendero (Secretary General and CEO of the WEA), Bishop Ndaba Mazabane (Chair of the International Council of the WEA), the leaders CWME of the World Council of Churches Rev. Jooseop Keum (Executive Director of the CWME of the WCC) and Bishop Geevarghese Coorilos (Moderator of the CWME of the WCC). Apart from other large movement a few Lausanne leaders were also represented. The panelists expressed an appreciation and respect for each other's contribution towards the furthering of the Gospel throughout the world.

Rob Brynjolfson discussed the WEA Partners and Networks: Global Partners, Commissions, Initiatives and Taskforces.

In conclusion of the GMRT, Kees Van der Wilden spoke on a thought provoking devotion on David and Goliath connecting to the contemporary missional challenges. Tim Halls introduced the thought-processes that are going into the planning of the Global Consultation in Panama 2016, which will be held from 3 - 7 October 2016. Some of the above themes will be presented and expanded in the WEA Mission Commission gathering in October 2016 at Panama.

In the end of the meeting we shared a special time around the Lord's Supper, with Bishop Ef Tendero ministering Holy Communion. Bill Taylor prayed for and anointed those who are currently going through a leadership transition.

Looking forward to the Global Consultation in Panama, and the subsequent Global Mission Roundtables.

For further details please connect through <http://mc.worlddea.org>.  
Report Respectably Submitted by K. Rajendran (WEA MC Leadership Team)