

VISION WORKSHEET #3 -- "OUR WORLD"

Opportunities for ministry are unlimited. Needs are everywhere. Which ministries should we undertake? In the local community, it may be possible to take on whatever ministries individuals feel called to and are equipped to initiate. When it comes to carrying out ministry beyond cultural barriers, the work may be more difficult; we may be less prepared for it; it may take greater commitment; and mistakes or withdrawal may have greater consequences.

However, the church has been commissioned to take the Gospel to all the world, and there is much at stake. It is important to make decisions wisely. There are a number of helpful questions to ask.

Questions about the World:

- ◆ Where is the church extremely weak or non-existent?
- ◆ Where is the church at risk for lack of effective leadership?
- ◆ Where is God clearly at work?
- ◆ Where can we work in partnership with people we know and trust?
- ◆ What is being neglected by others?
- ◆ What strategies is God clearly using?
- ◆ Where are there "hinge of history" opportunities?

Questions about individual ministry opportunities?

1. How strategic is this ministry?
 - How does it contribute to bringing people to Christ who now have little opportunity?
 - How will this ultimately help build local congregations?
 - Is this important work that is not being done now?
 - What level of Christian resources are already being applied?
 - Will this have an impact? Will it make a real difference that counts?
 - What kind of leverage or multiplication can be expected?
 - What about the quality - call, competence, character - of the worker(s) involved?
2. Does this work fit our congregation? Has God prepared us for this?
 - Will our people understand, accept, support, and participate in this work?
 - How do we fit into it? What is our part?
 - Are we prepared to stay for the long haul if that's what it takes?
3. Do we clearly have God's leading in this matter?

Resources:

Operation World, Patrick Johnstone

The Changing Shape of World Mission, Bryant Myers

Mission Handbook, Linda J. Weber and Dotsey Welliver, eds., www.missionhandbook.com

For more information on this topic, see *Building Global Vision* by David Mays