



## **Next Steps – Engaging Unreached People Groups**

### **Discovery**

1. Conduct online research of unreached, unengaged people groups ([www.finishthetask.org](http://www.finishthetask.org), [www.joshuaproject.org](http://www.joshuaproject.org), [www.peoplegroups.org](http://www.peoplegroups.org), [www.public.imb.org/globalresearch](http://www.public.imb.org/globalresearch)) and prayerfully choose a country/region with a cluster of UUPG's that match your passion. You may want to investigate two or three groups in an area in case there is not an immediate open door to your first choice.
  - a. Unreached – Less than 2% evangelical believers
  - b. Unengaged – No one is trying to reach them
  - c. Some have no congregations and no believers
  - d. Some have no Scriptures and no tools for evangelism
2. Remember, your most important first step is to identify a potential partner that can assist you overseas (contact Issachar Initiative for recommendations). This could be a local church or a pioneering ministry with indigenous leaders.
3. Prayerfully choose an organization that has experience in recruiting and training indigenous workers and has demonstrated competence in evangelism, discipleship and church planting.

### **Vision**

1. Take a Trip
  - a. A vision trip can be of great help in any of the following situations:
    - i. You're not yet sure if you want to make the commitment to engage, but you want to learn more.
    - ii. You'd like to visit a few people groups so you can choose the right one for your church or mission.
    - iii. You've already decided to engage and you want to learn more about your people group so you can decide with your partner how you will begin your evangelism and compassion strategies.
  - b. A vision trip is the best way to meet the people and explore that part of the world where you think you might be called to work. It will help you experience the lifestyle, understand the spiritual status, and catch God's vision for His harvest among them.
  - c. Your partnering organization should be able to assist you in the arrangements for this trip so it will meet your specific needs.
  - d. Who participates?
    - i. Logistically, it's easier to facilitate a small group of 3-4 people. It's also less overwhelming to the places you will visit.
    - ii. Ideally, the senior pastor or primary ministry leader should be on the first trip along with 2-3 others who will carry the vision back to your church or organization, but God will certainly use whomever you send!
  - e. How long is the trip?
    - i. A vision trip should not be over 10 days long. This allows lay people in the marketplace to only miss one workweek.



- ii. It could take two days of travel to get to your people group. However, don't forget that many people groups are now moving to the major cities in search of work. Once you arrive in a place, you'll probably have at least one more day of travel to reach the area where the people live.
    - iii. There is a reason many UUPG's remain unreached and unengaged. They are in some difficult, remote areas.
  2. Your pastor or ministry leader should appoint a "Champion" for your people group.
    - a. Your "Champion" is the person who will provide leadership for your efforts, recruit a team to carry out those efforts, and keep the needs of the UUPG before your church or organization.
    - b. Hopefully by the time the trip is over (or soon after), God will have shown you the kind of commitment you should make and with which people group. It will be important to share what God has shown you so you can cast the vision to the entire church or organization -- a compelling presentation of what the team has seen and the vision God has given for reaching the people. Then you should start planning specific partnership strategies for reaching your people group and for getting others involved in the process.
  3. Recruit a team to:
    - a. Mobilize prayer support
    - b. Determine and implement clear parameters for conduct of the ministry
    - c. Cast a vision for engagement
    - d. Communicate with your field partner.
    - e. Develop and implement a resourcing plan
    - f. Handle communications, logistics, training, finance, reporting, supervision, travel, and coordination
  4. Ask yourselves some "probing" questions
    - a. Are we truly committed to reaching the people group? How will we handle that commitment if there is a transition in leadership?
    - b. Are we choosing our people group based upon their needs or ours? How can we ensure our commitment will continue if barriers arise?
    - c. How long are we committed to the task of reaching the people group (e.g. three years, five years, until there is a church planting movement among the people group, etc.)? When would we consider the job is done?
    - d. How often are we committed to sending volunteer groups in order to maintain strong relationships with our field partners?

### **Engagement**

1. Sign a Memorandum of Understanding with a partner organization in the country of your UUPG. It is important that your partner can recruit indigenous national workers. This will ensure: knowledge of the culture, possibility of ongoing continuity, the possibility of a sustainable ministry.
2. Make a long-term commitment to evangelism, discipleship and church planting among your people group with the goal of seeing a self-sustaining, indigenous church-planting process among them.
3. Employ strategies consistent with missiological principles that will ensure church reproduction in the cultural context without creating too much dependency on outside resources.