



ethne.net

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Dear Friends,

### **A Major Change**

It is with mixed emotions that we share some important news about Ethnê. After 22 years of serving the global missions body, the Facilitation Team has made the difficult decision to announce that Ethnê 2023 is to be our last global meeting.

This decision comes after careful consideration and reflection on the goals and vision God gave when Ethnê was launched in 2001. We believe that, over the years, by His grace, Ethnê has fulfilled the purposes God intended for this stage of global mission.

### **History & Context**

In 2001, at the Great Commission Roundtable (GCR) meeting in Port Dickson, Malaysia, the AD2000 Movement, with its focus on mobilising the global body of Christ to world evangelisation, was phasing out. A number of global leaders from every continent committed to continue stimulating the effort to work together globally to bring the Gospel to all Unreached People Groups. We formed a network called Ethnê -- a global network of "UPG- focused" mission leaders committed to hold a UPG-focused working meeting (not simply a conference) every three years in a different region of the world. Ethnê also was connected officially to both the Lausanne Movement and to the World Evangelical Alliance Mission Commission.

Ethnê's vision – *peoples joining together to glorify God among all peoples* – focused on these three priorities:

- CELEBRATING Great Commission progress among the least reached peoples
- ASSESSING current opportunities and resources
- ACCELERATING movements to Christ among every people

Good things emerged from each of the following global gatherings - 2006 in Bali, Indonesia; 2009 Bogota, Colombia; 2012 in Seoul, South Korea; 2015 in Hyderabad, India; 2018 in Malta; and finally 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Ethnê formed eight strategy groups, where true multi-national collaboration was at the heart, with all nationalities collaborating to reach the unreached:

- Prayer – tying prayer efforts together to give focus and create synergy around specific needs at specific times.
- Ethno Arts – promoting appropriate indigenous artistic expressions (either originating from within or adopted) by each ethnê to know, worship, and testify about the True God.
- Church Planting Movements (Holistic Gospel Movements) – collaborating to stimulate training and to call out workers to peoples where little is happening.

- Frontier Crisis Response Network —connecting workers and networks into effective efforts which continue to leave long term workers in place long after the initial crisis is past.
- Member Care—committed to provide quality member care resources to support the mission community as it works among least-reached people groups.
- Information/Research—working together internationally to collect, coordinate, and disseminate accurate, up-to-date information about least reached peoples, hard-to-reach populations, and the needs of the church.
- Young Leaders —mobilising, equipping, encouraging and enabling new generations to engage with least- reached peoples and to help shape emerging strategies.
- Missionary Training Interest Group—an initiative focused on collaborating in missionary candidate training.

### Current Status

As the Ethnê network meetings officially draw to a close, the good news is that the commitment to all UPGs is now strong across many international organizations and networks. Further, full networks which parallel the eight “UPG-focused” strategy groups originally launched are now active and strong. Ethnê was *but one stream* of influence which both helped stimulate this UPG focus globally as well as these growing and strategic networks which emerged:

- Global Member Care Network ([globalmembercare.com/](http://globalmembercare.com/)) launched in 2012.
- Several “Church Planting” networks, all of which include some major emphasis on discipling all UPGs: GACX (Global Alliance for Church Multiplication), GCPN (Global Church Planting Network), FTT (Finishing the Task), Global Outreach Day/Go2020; 2414 ([2414now.net](http://2414now.net)) with some contribution from the early Ethnê Ephesus Team concepts, etc.
- Crisis Response efforts, often among UPGs, now being led by groups like Refugee Highway ([refugeehighway.net](http://refugeehighway.net)); 2414’s Crisis Response working group; and International Disaster Response Network ([idrn.info](http://idrn.info)).
- Mission mobilisation of younger leaders includes networks like Lausanne’ Younger Leaders forum and SVM2 now GMMI ([www.globalmmi.net/](http://www.globalmmi.net/)) founded in 2002.
- Ethno Arts efforts continue through groups like [www.facebook.com/ALDEA.EthnoArtes](http://www.facebook.com/ALDEA.EthnoArtes) (part of the network from Latin America); [www.worldofworship.org/](http://www.worldofworship.org/); and the Global Ethnodoxology Network (launched in 2003).
- Information and research efforts, launched well before Ethnê, continue to grow and have helped stimulate and were stimulated by Ethnê efforts. These efforts include organisations like Joshua Project, 24:14, Go31, Bless the Frontier Groups, and the Community of Mission Information Workers.

Maybe the most significant Ethnê contribution to the global UPG effort is the Ethnê Prayer Team which continues to grow and impact global evangelisation. The Ethnê Prayer and Strategic Harvest Initiative led by Ethnê Prayer Team continues from the inception of the Ethnê Network in 2001. The Ethnê prayer team meets regularly each month for prayer, sharing updates from the 12 regions and our representatives in those regions who are mobilising prayer for unreached people groups. The Ethnê Prayer team is a relational community which catalyses and connects prayer strategists to pray and mobilise the body of Christ to see God’s Kingdom preached and demonstrated amongst all people groups particularly among the least reached peoples and places. We exist to Catalyse, Connect and Collaborate in Community. The team partners with many other international and regional prayer networks for example; International Prayer Council, 24:14, Global Family, 10 days, WEA MC,

COMIBAM, MANI, Lausanne. The Ethnê Prayer Team will continue to meet, champion, and pray for breakthroughs to see disciple multiplying in every unreached people group.

Perhaps one of *the lasting impacts of the Ethnê network is the awakening of children praying for unreached peoples*. In 2015 the Ethnê Prayer Team was “arrested” in a time of listening to God, by the command “Don’t forget the children”. Since then, mobilising children in prayer has been a priority, with a workshop at the Malta 2018 gathering and at the impactful prayer concert at the recent 2023 meeting where children and youth led us with prophetic prayers, worship and intercession. The global children’s prayer team meets all day on a Saturday once a month.

The work of seeing movement engagements amongst all people and places, and of seeing disciples multiplying amongst all unreached peoples is still far from complete. Of the 7081 unreached people groups remaining over 2000 live in the nation of India. ***The Ethnê network will continue to pray through the Ethnê Prayer Team ([www.ethneprayer.org](http://www.ethneprayer.org)). To join the monthly calls, strategic prayer training and/or one to one coaching please get in touch [prayerethne@gmail.com](mailto:prayerethne@gmail.com).***

**The Call Remains and Will Be Completed:** When Ethnê was launched, global statistics suggested at least 28% of the world’s population had no access to hear and see Jesus Good News. Some key mission researchers now indicate that percentage is well over 30%, and the total number of individuals who would be classified as from a UPG is at least 2.1 billion.

The good news is that in 1980; 60% of humanity lived in people groups with no movements to Jesus. Although world population has nearly doubled, just 25% of humanity now lives in Frontier People Groups (FPGs – a key subset of the overall “UPG” population)—with virtually NO followers of Jesus, NO movements to Jesus, and needing pioneer workers. A Shift from 60% to 25%. In 1980 the ratio of unreached frontier peoples to believers was 10:1 it is now 2:1.

Further, almost 2000 “Book of Acts / Church Planting Movements” are known to be growing and expanding and include over 115 million disciples largely from UPGs – and they are multiplying disciples and churches in their people and beyond to other UPGs.

### **Appreciation for Global Leadership**

We thank God for the facilitation team, steering committee and convening groups for the Ethnê movement which have been truly global throughout the Ethnê effort. They include leaders from mission organizations and facilitators of partnerships such as the Indonesian Peoples Network, Philippines Mission Association, Malaysian Centre for Global Missions, Nigerian Evangelical Missions Association, Indonesian Evangelical Alliance, Buddhist World Network, Movement of African National Initiative, North Africa & Middle East Partnership, Indian Mission Association, the Ibero-American Mission Network (COMIBAM), Frontier Ventures (formerly the US Center for World Mission), Central Asia Consultation, Francophone Africa Partnership, Arabian Peninsula Partnership, Southeast Asia Unreached Peoples Network (SEALINK), YWAM, Korea Mission Association, and International Partnership Associates (IPA) and others.

### **Looking Ahead**

While it is bittersweet to announce the closure of Ethnê, we are proud of the collective efforts and accomplishments of each person, churches, mission organizations, and networks who have contributed to our shared vision. Together, we have created a vibrant and supportive community that has made a lasting impact on the unreached peoples.

As we transition into this new phase, we want to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who has been a part of Ethnê. Your shared vision, passion, and commitment have been the driving force behind the multiplication of disciples among the unreached. We have shared countless memories, overcome challenges, and worked towards a common goal, and for that, we are truly thankful.

While Ethnê will no longer be an active entity, let us stay connected with one another. The relationships and collaborations formed during our time together are invaluable, and we hope that they will continue to flourish in new and exciting ways.

Jesus will complete his Mission. All who have been involved or influenced by Ethnê will still be involved in obeying Jesus by fulfilling the assigned Great Commission and in seeking to continue being catalytic in accelerating movements to Christ among every people.

Blessings,

**The Ethnê Facilitation Team**