



John & Dawn Elliott



Training workers for the harvest in Zambia



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Setting Goals for 2020

The three churches in Zambia affiliated with the Assemblies of God, U.S.A. have grown tremendously in the past, with about 2000 congregations today. This is up from about 220 in 1990! But what about the future? What does our Lord seek to accomplish through the Assemblies of God in Zambia, The Pentecostal Assemblies of God, and Grace Ministries Mission?

Across Africa the next 10 years are being called a Decade of Pentecost. This will be a time for renewed emphasis on our Pentecostal distinctives and on a major purpose for which Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit to us—to be Christ's witnesses. The leadership teams of all 3 churches recently met to pray and consider the direction God wants these churches to take. In conjunction with this, an Acts 1:8 Conference was held in August, led by Dr. Denny Miller and his team. This was a time for pastors and church leaders to meet and reflect on the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst and our Lord's desire that none should perish but that all should experience the forgiveness He offers freely to all mankind. All three churches set their own goals. Here is a brief overview of these goals:

1. All the churches have promised to make sure their members are filled with the Holy Spirit and equipped to spread the Gospel.
2. Collectively, the three churches have committed to establish more than 1000 new churches, although if present trends continue, this goal will doubtless be exceeded.
3. Another goal is to plant churches in every corner of Zambia, including places like Northwest Province, with many unreached people groups. Zambia has 38 distinct Bantu languages and some 72 tribal groups. While many of them are well evangelized, others are at this point effectively unevangelized. The goals also call for at least ten couples to be sent out as missionaries beyond Zambia.
4. A very ambitious goal is to have **over 1,700,000 church members** in 2020. That is 10% of the country's projected population. To go from 220 churches to 10% of the population in 30 years would be amazing growth!



Worship in session for leaders



Conference attendees



Praying with leaders over national church goals

A key ingredient to the fulfillment of these goals will be the training of an army of church planters, pastors, and leaders of all kinds. The goals call for the establishment of **new training centers** and the training of **over 1000 new church planters**.

And this is where our part (and yours) in all these ambitious plans comes in. With your prayer and financial support, we intend to be there to provide materials and offer counsel in the training of church planters, pastors, and church leaders of various sorts, in addition to teaching in different settings. Please join us in praying for a mighty outpouring of God's Spirit upon this land and for the implementation of these goals for the glory of the Lord!

John + Dawn