

SEEING THE HARVEST ... AND WHAT IS IN OUR HANDS



John 4

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans). 10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water”

31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.” 32 But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” 33 Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?” 34 “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. 35 Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. 36 Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. 37 Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. 38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor”



39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. 41 And because of his words many more became believers.

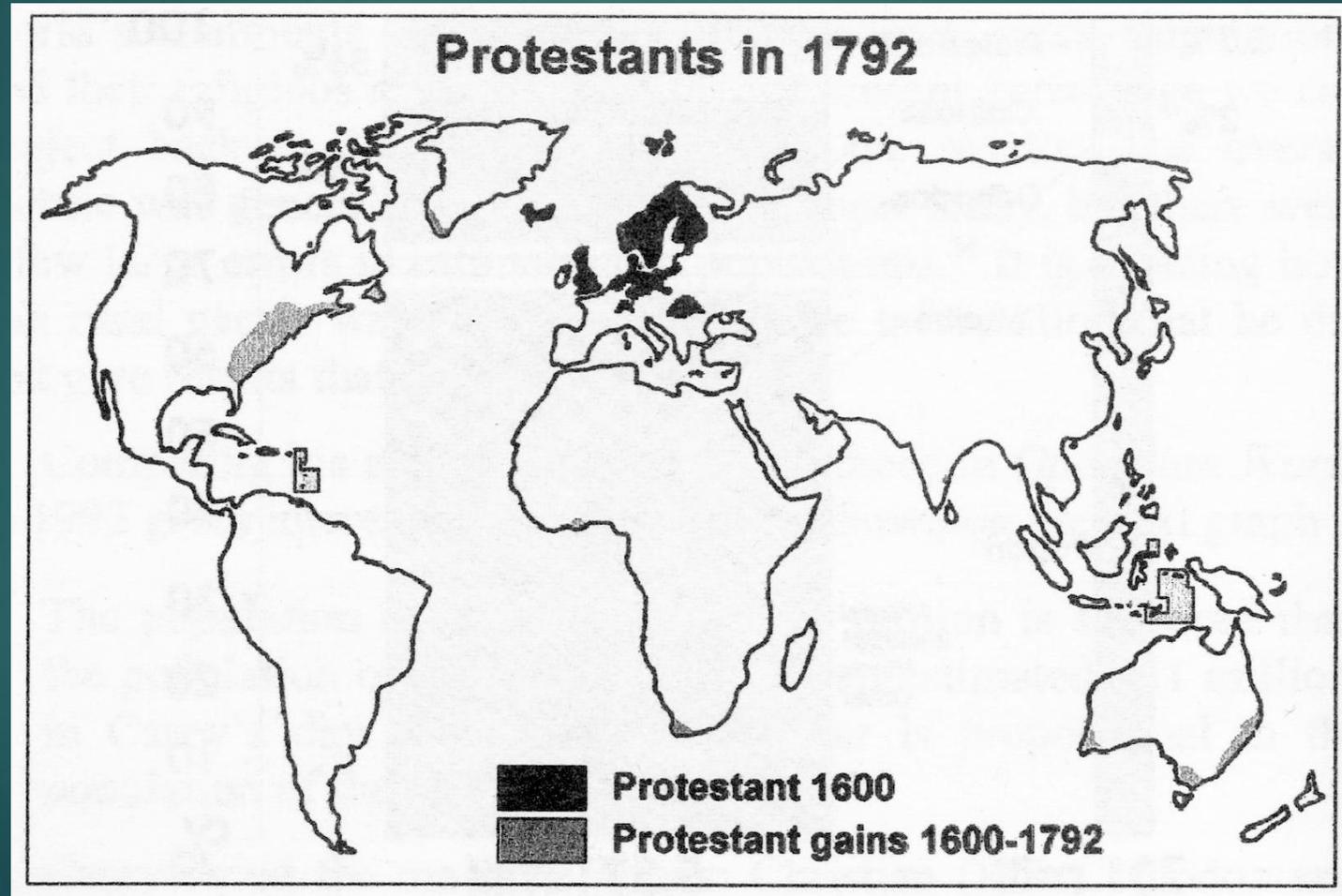
Cruising for Jesus!



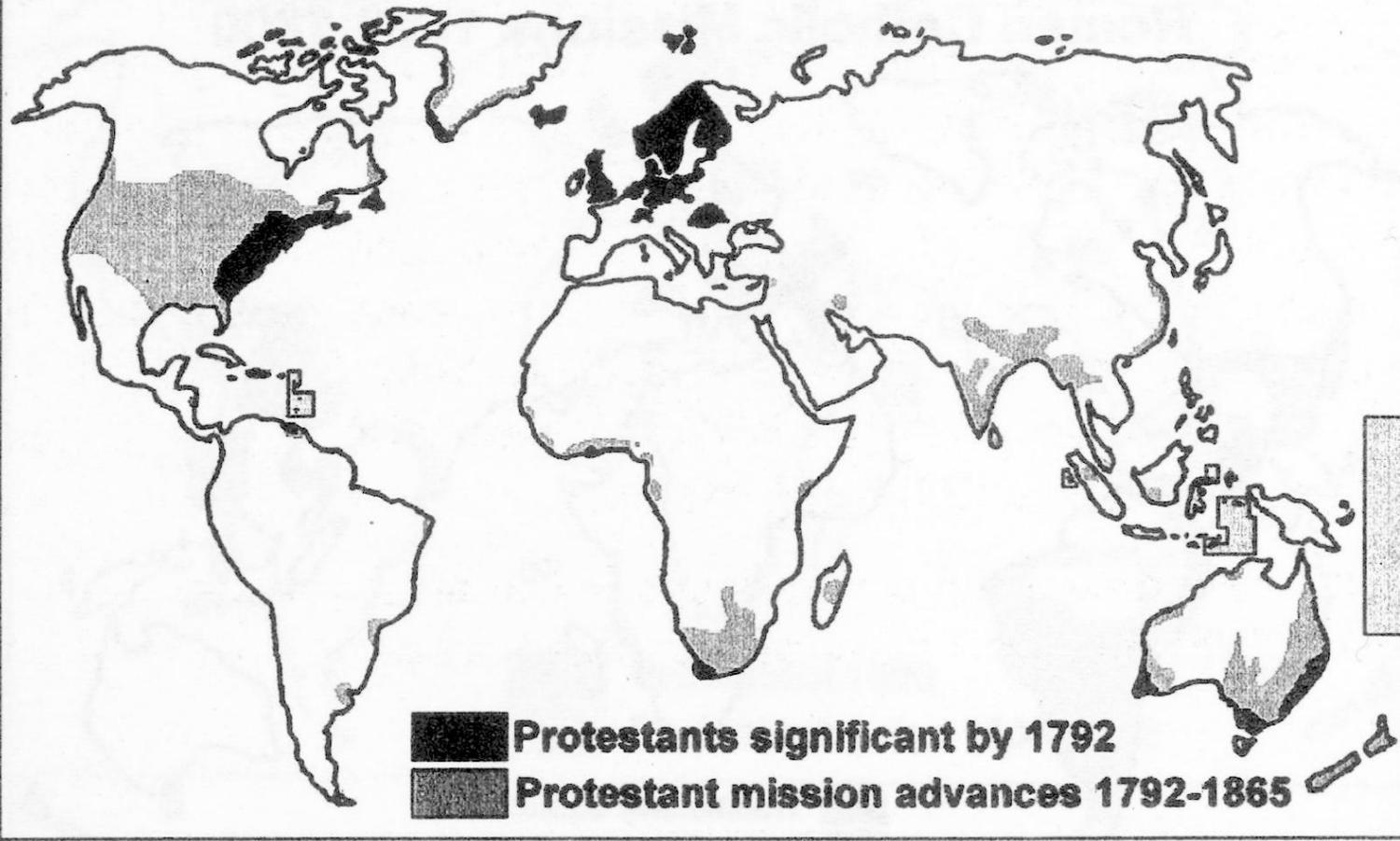


***A. Seeing the Past Harvest:
From coast lands to people groups***

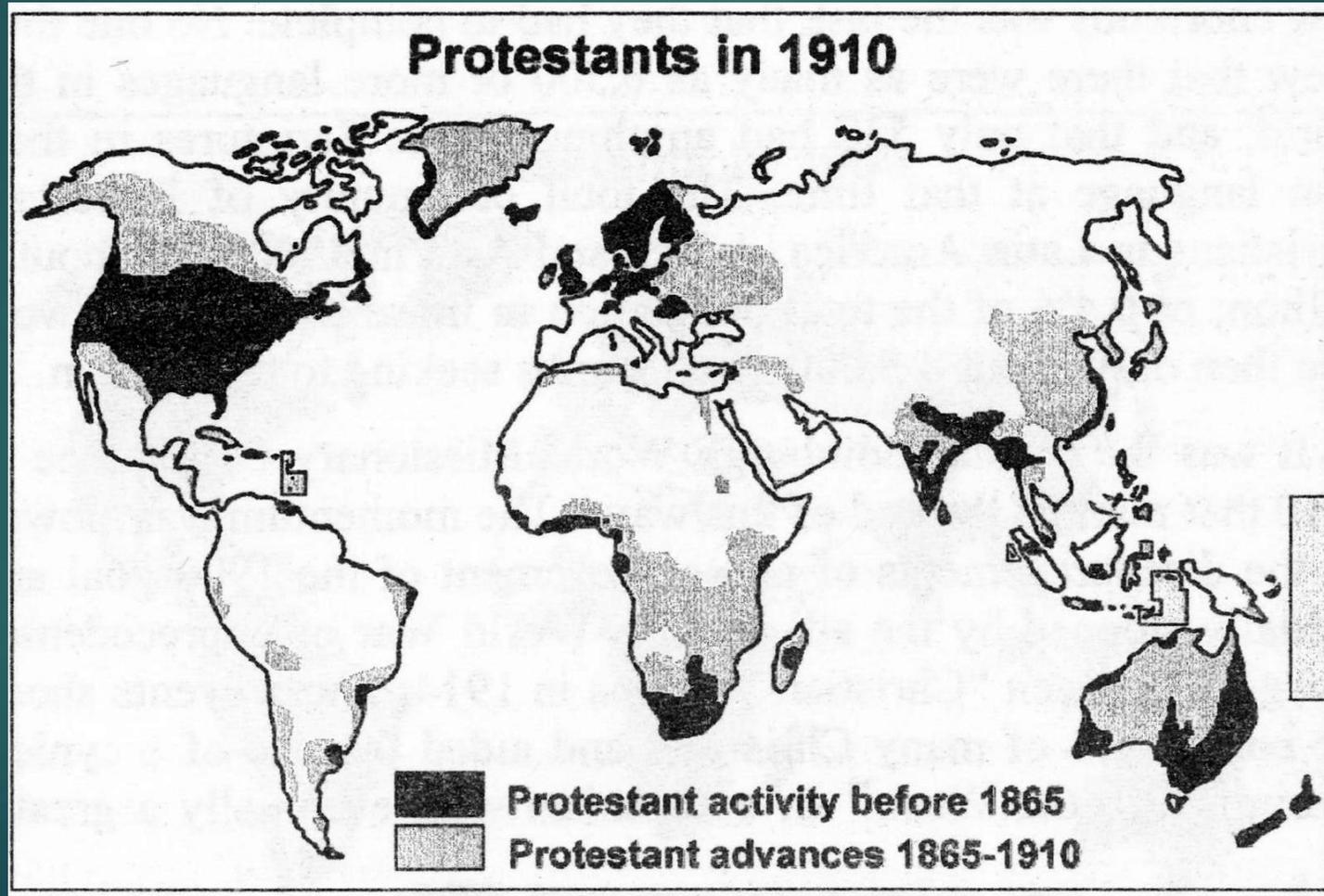
Denominational missions to the continental coastlands, 1792-1865



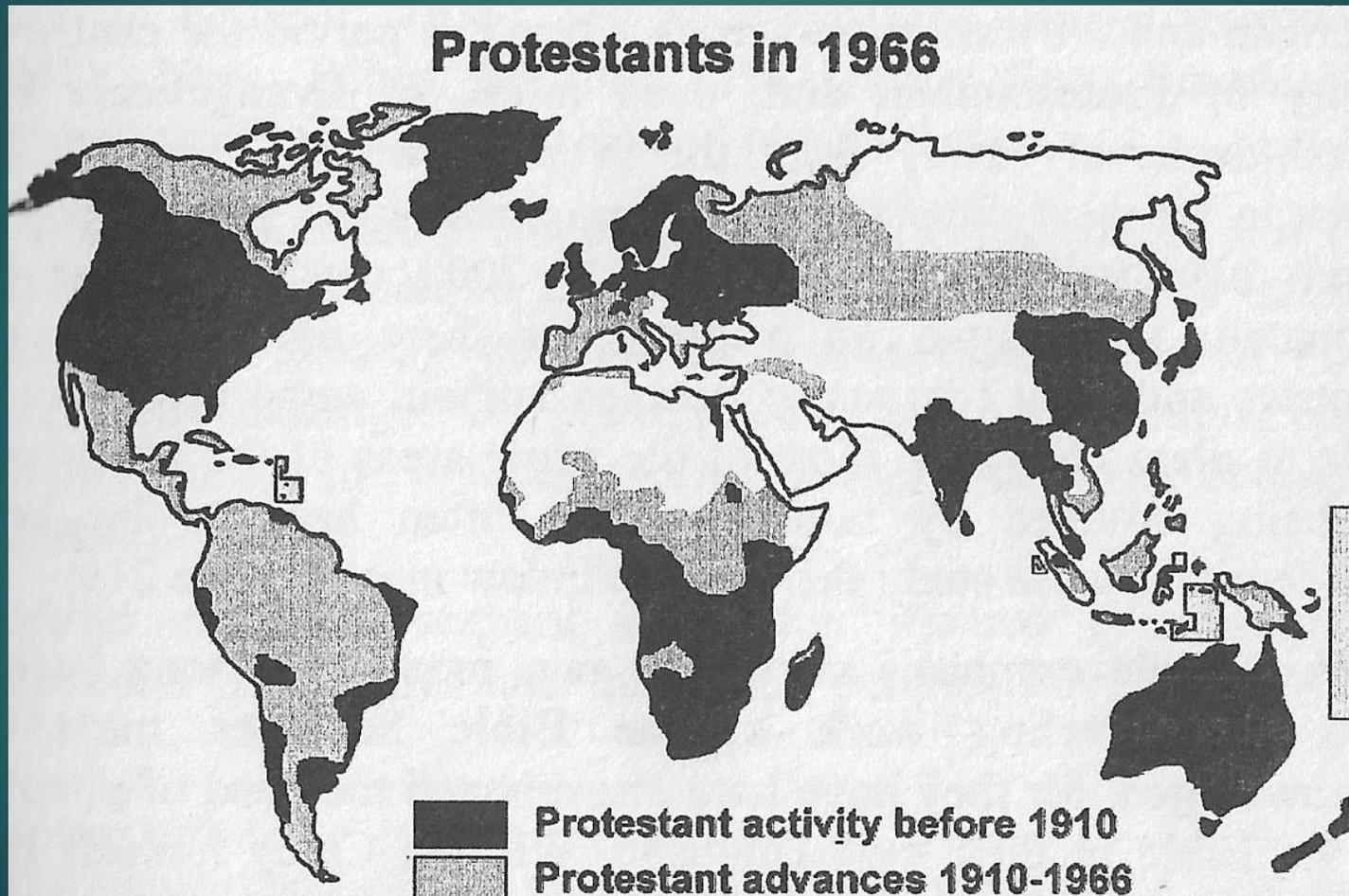
Protestants in 1865



Interdenominational missions to the continental inlands, 1865-1910



Evangelical missions to the countries of the world, 1910-1966



Global missions to the peoples of the world, 1966-present

- ▶ “*Hidden*” peoples = ethno-linguistic people groups
- ▶ “*Unreached*” or “*Least Reached*”
- ▶ “*ethne*” = the nations!

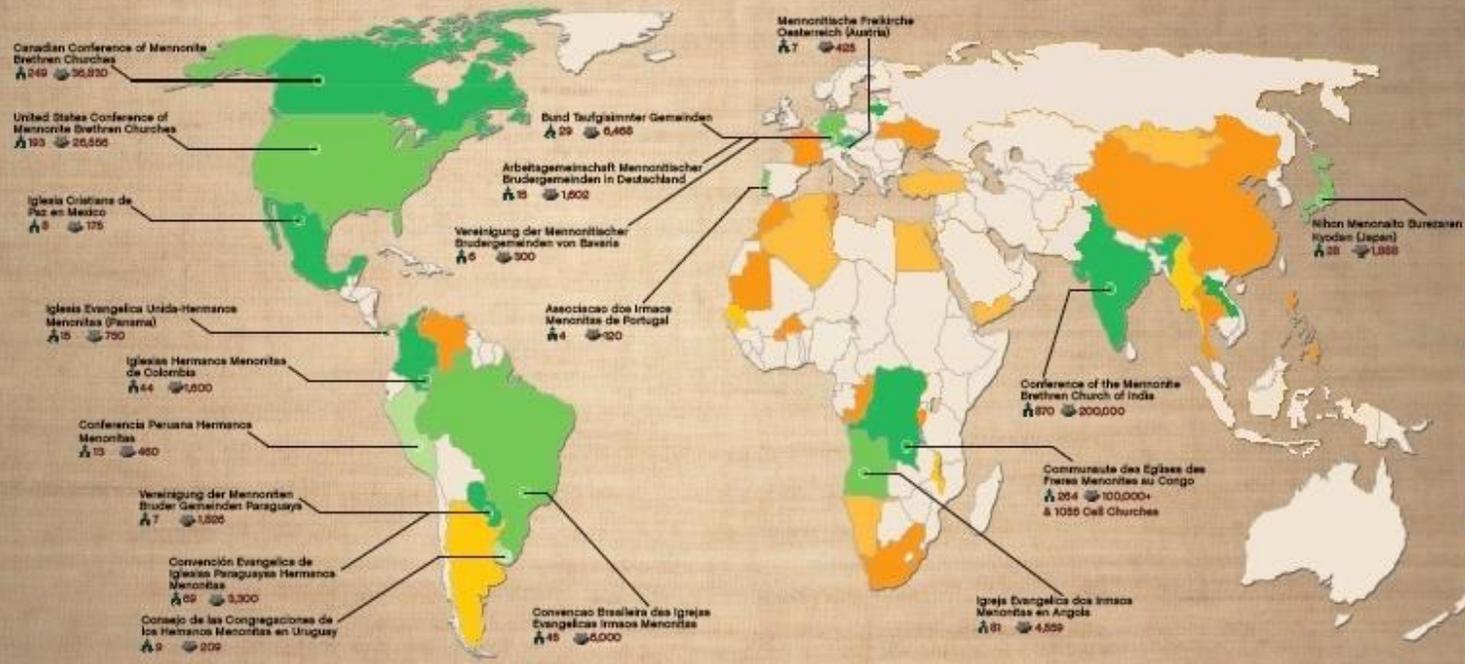


B. *Seeing the Present Harvest:*
The status of Christian mission today



Is it right that some are able to hear
the Gospel every day,
while so many others
have not heard the Gospel,
or the name of Jesus
even once?

Celebrating *the Global Mennonite Brethren Family*



From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. Acts 17:26

- Churches
- Church Members
- Established MB Conferences
- Ongoing Missions Work





Our call is not to geo-political countries,
but to ethno-linguistic peoples ...
the “*nations*” referred to by our Lord
and throughout Scripture

Nivacle - Paraguay



DR Congo

Batwa



Chinese



Japanese reaching Thai



Brazilians reaching Mandjack (Senegal)



Persians - Germany



Indians reaching Burmese



Wounaan - Colombia





**C. *Seeing the Future Harvest:
A Compelling Vision***

Isaiah 54:

1 “Sing, barren woman,
you who never bore a child;
burst into song, shout for joy,
you who were never in labor;
because more are the children
of the desolate woman
than of her who has a husband,”
says the Lord.

2 “Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide,
do not hold back;
lengthen your cords,
strengthen your stakes.

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- 3 For you will spread out to the right and to the left;
your descendants will dispossess nations
and settle in their desolate cities.
- 4 “Do not be afraid; you will not be put to shame.
Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated.
You will forget the shame of your youth
and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood.
- 5 For your Maker is your husband—
the Lord Almighty is his name—
the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer;
he is called the God of all the earth

Revelation 7



9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

10 And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.”



***D. Seeing the MB Church in the Harvest:
What is in your Hand?***

a theology of smallness ...

- Abraham
- Gideon
- Esther
- Mary
- Disciples

KEY CONCEPTS ...

- ▶ Nation-states vs Nations (ethne): 200 vs 16,500
- ▶ World C, World B, World A = 2 Billion, 29%, 1 in 4
- ▶ Unreached People Groups = 6700 need help
from the outside
- ▶ More information ... www.joshuaproject.net

Let us ...

- ▶ “Repent of our blindness to the continuing presence of so many unreached peoples in our world and our lack of urgency in sharing the gospel among them.
- ▶ Renew our commitment to go to those who have not yet heard the gospel, to engage deeply with their language and culture, to live the gospel among them with incarnational love and sacrificial service, to communicate the light and truth of the Lord Jesus Christ in word and deed, awakening them through the Holy Spirit’s power to the surprising grace of God”

We pray ...

- ▶ “Open our eyes Lord, that we may see the world as you see it.”
- ▶ “Lord of the Harvest, let us see what we have in our hands, and send forth more workers into your harvest field.”