

The Mission Society Releases Resource List as Key To Global Outreach Experts

Multiple topics covered for use by media is a vital source list in the industry

(Norcross/Atlanta, GA – July 21, 2008) – The Mission Society, a Christian-based organization that develops diverse programs and ministries, has released a comprehensive guide to mission resources within the organization. This list is intended to offer a topical guide for media and others when looking for experts while researching mission industry issues and global outreach events.

Here are experts in the field from The Mission Society who can be a resource for your next story on the topics listed below. If you need a quote from someone or just need background information, we can help. Please contact Julie Chalpan at 770.736.3100 or julie@pointofvision to put you in touch with any of these resources.

Christian Leadership, International Ministry, Discernment Planning

Rev. Dr. Philip (Phil) R. Granger, President & CEO. Phil's expertise lies in the management of Christian organizations, discernment planning and strategic implications. Phil began his career as a certified public accountant and worked in the financial arena until he received God's call to enter full-time ministry. Phil is an elder in full connection in The United Methodist Church, and has been a pastor, conference director of finance and administration, as well as a district superintendent overseeing more than 70 churches. Phil served for many years on the boards of Good News and Hope for Today ministries in India. He received his B.A. in accounting and his M.B.A. in accounting and physical distribution from Michigan State University, his M.Div. in theology and family counseling from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, and his D.Min. in management in the local church and discernment planning from Oral Roberts University School of Theology.

Church Relations, Mobilization of Churches, International Ministry

Rev. Richard (Dick) W. McClain, Vice President of Ministry Operations. Dick's expertise lies in motivating and equipping local churches for more effective and strategic outreach, mobilizing churches in missions and international mission movements. He is the son and grandson of missionaries, born in China and grew up in India and Hong Kong. Prior to joining The Mission Society, Dick served as the youth minister of Crossroads Bible Church in the Panama Canal Zone. He is an ordained minister and served pastorates in West Michigan for 11 years, leading the West Michigan United Methodist Renewal Fellowship and directing an area-wide yearly conference on the Holy Spirit. Dick served on the board of directors of Good News, an organization working for theological and spiritual renewal within the United Methodist Church. His international ministry has taken him to numerous countries in the Caribbean, Central and South America, Africa, Asia, and

Europe. Dick received a B.A. in psychology from Asbury College and M.Div. with special emphasis in missions from Asbury Theological Seminary.

Missiological Anthropology, Muslim Insider Movement, Holistic Mission and Development

Darrell L. Whiteman, Ph.D., Vice President of Mission Education and Resident Missiologist. Darrell's expertise lies in the area of missiological anthropology, holistic mission and development, and training and orientation of cross-cultural witnesses. He is the author and editor of three books dealing with the cultural dynamics of missionary and national interaction, in addition to scores of articles. Prior to joining The Mission Society, Darrell served as dean of the E. Stanley Jones School of World Mission and Evangelism, and professor of cultural anthropology at Asbury Theological Seminary. He also served as editor for the journal *Missiology*. He is the founding chair of the Network of Christian Anthropologists, and has served as president of the Association of Professors of Mission, the International Association for Mission Studies, and the American Society of Missiology. He received his B.A. in sociology – anthropology from Seattle Pacific College, his Ph.D. in anthropology from Southern Illinois University, and attended Harvard University's School of Education program for academic deans.

Missionary Training, Muslim Insider Movement, Cell Group Ministry

Rev. Frank P. Decker, Vice President of Human Resources and Discipleship. Frank's expertise lies in missionary training, relational evangelism, and the Muslim Insider Movement. He has been involved in missions for his entire career. He spent seven years in Ghana and was the founding pastor of Asbury Dunwell Church in Accra, a lecturer at Trinity College in Legon, directed the national evangelism program of the Methodist Church and started the lay evangelists program there. Prior to serving as a missionary, Frank was the pastor of the Community United Methodist Church in Portsmouth, Virginia. In his role at The Mission Society, Frank provides oversight to the ministries of Missionary Mobilization, Missionary Care, and Human Resources. Frank is a regular columnist for *Good News* magazine. He has a B.A. in political science from West Virginia Wesleyan and M.Div. from Emory University. Frank is currently involved in planting a new cell church north of Atlanta.

African American Church, Missions, Missionary Recruitment and Training

Richard O. Coleman, Director of Mobilization and Candidacy. Richard's expertise lies in reaching out to and understanding the African-American church, missionary recruitment and training, as well as short-term missions. Prior to joining The Mission Society, Richard served as director of missions at a megachurch in metropolitan Atlanta, where he counseled individuals who felt a call to missions and maintained the church's relationship with its supported missionaries. He also taught missions classes and planned and led short-term mission trips to Kenya, Honduras, Nova Scotia, and the Dominican Republic. He oversees The Mission Society's efforts in recruiting, coaching and processing missionary candidates. Richard received his B.A. in Biblical literature-New Testament and his M.Div.



from Oral Roberts University. He enjoys experiencing other cultures and learning new languages and is currently striving for fluency in Spanish.

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About The Mission Society

Founded in 1984 in the Wesleyan tradition, The Mission Society recruits, trains, and sends Christian missionaries to minister around the world. At present, The Mission Society has more than 225 missionaries in 32 countries. The Mission Society develops diverse programs and ministries in accordance with its missionaries' unique callings and gifts, ranging from well-drilling and the arts to more traditional ministries such as teaching English and church planting. Its church ministry department provides seminars, workshops, and mentoring for congregations in the United States and overseas, helping equip churches for strategic outreach in their own communities and throughout the world. For more information on The Mission Society, call 1.800.478.8963 or visit www.themissionsociety.org.

Media Contact:

Ruth Burgner

Direct: 678.542.9038

rburgner@themissionsociety.org