

BUSINESS AS MISSION MANIFESTO



BACKGROUND

In 2004, the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (now known as the Lausanne Movement — www.lausanne.org/) worked for a year on the Business as Mission concept, addressing issues relating to God's purposes for work and business, the role of business people in church and missions, the needs of the world, and the potential response of business.

The group consisted of over 70 people from all continents. Most came from a business background, but there were also church and mission leaders, educators, theologians, lawyers and researchers. The collaboration process included 60 papers, 25 cases studies, several national and regional business as mission consultations and email-based discussions, culminating in a week of face to face dialogue and work.

The group's affirmations, recommendations and conclusions follow.

AFFIRMATIONS

We believe:

- God has created all men & women in His image with the ability to be creative, creating good things for themselves and for others - this includes business.
- In following in the footsteps of Jesus, who constantly and consistently met the needs of the people He encountered, thus demonstrating the love of God and the rule of His kingdom.
- That the Holy Spirit empowers all members of the Body of Christ to serve, to meet the real spiritual and physical needs of others, demonstrating the kingdom of God.
- That God has called and equipped business people to make a Kingdom difference in and through their businesses.
- That the gospel has the power to transform individuals, communities and societies. Christians in business should therefore be a part of this holistic transformation through business.

We recognize:

- That poverty and unemployment are often rampant in areas where the name of Jesus is rarely heard and understood.
- Both the dire need for, and the importance of, business development. However it is more than just business *per se*. Business as mission is about business with a Kingdom of God perspective, purpose and impact.
- That there is a need for job creation and for multiplication of businesses all over the

world, aiming at the quadruple bottom line: spiritual, economic, social and environmental transformation.

- That the church has a huge and largely untapped resource in the Christian business community to meet needs of the world – in and through business - and bring glory to God in the market place and beyond.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We call upon the Church world wide to identify, affirm, pray for, commission and release business people and entrepreneurs to exercise their gifts and calling as business people in the world – among all peoples and to the ends of the earth.

We call upon business people globally to receive this affirmation and to consider how their gifts and experience might be used to help meet the world's most pressing spiritual and physical needs through business as mission.

CONCLUSION

The real bottom line of business as mission is *ad maiorem Dei gloriam* – for the greater glory of God.

— Lausanne CWE, Business as Mission Issue Group, October 2004