GREAT COMMISSION MANIFESTO
Global Consultation for World Evangelization by AD 2000 & Beyond, 1989

We, the 314 participants from 50 nations gathered for the Global Consultation for World Evangelization by AD 2000 and Beyond, come from many different churches, denominations and ministries under the direction of the Holy Spirit for what we consider to be a singular moment in the history of the Church. We identify ourselves as a gathering of Christians who by faith alone has accepted Jesus Christ, true God and true man, revealed in the infallible and holy Scriptures as our Lord and Savior. We are committed to biblical righteousness in our behavior and to growth in holiness.

We gratefully acknowledge the worldwide witness and ministry of faithful men and women throughout the previous 20 centuries. We humbly confess our pride, prejudice, competition and disobedience that have hindered our generation from effectively working at the task of world evangelization. These sins have impeded God’s desire to spread abroad His gracious provision of eternal salvation through the precious blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. We turn from these sins and failures to express our belief that God has graciously opened to us a window of opportunity to completing the magnificent task He has given us. We boldly seize this crucial moment, more impressed with God's great power than any force arrayed against us.

Cooperation & Partnership
We have listened to each other and rejoice at what God is doing through many plans for world evangelization. We learned that there are over 2,000 separate plans relating to world evangelization. We see afresh that cooperation and partnership are absolute necessities if the Great Commission is going to be fulfilled by the Year 2000. For the sake of those who are lost and eternally separated from God, we have dared to pray and dream of what might happen if appropriate autonomy of churches and ministries could be balanced with significant partnership.

Empowerment
We acknowledge that the evangelization of the world can be carried out only in the power of the Holy Spirit. Listening and ready, we declare our dependence upon the Holy Spirit and commit to undergird all efforts for world evangelization with personal and corporate prayer. We recognize that human energy cannot replace divine activity nor can spiritual success be measured in terms of human achievement. The effectiveness of our endeavors does not lie in human expertise but in the sovereign activity of the Holy Spirit.

Compassion
The Good News of Jesus Christ brings special meaning to suffering humanity. God’s love brings hope to those who live under the bondage of sin, and who are victims of poverty and injustice. We believe that Christians involved in world evangelization should live among people as servants and minister to the needs of the whole person.

Towards Fulfillment
The revelation of God in Christ is plain. The commission to His Church is clear. The unfinished task is apparent. The opportunity to work together is ours. We believe that it is possible to bring the Gospel to all people by the year 2000. This can be accomplished with sufficient dedication, unity, and mobilization of available resources, powered and directed by God.

To accomplish this objective, it will be necessary to:

- Focus particularly on those who have not yet heard the Gospel.
- Provide every people and population on earth with a valid opportunity to hear the Gospel in a language they can understand. It is our fervent prayer that at least half of humanity will profess allegiance to the Lord Jesus.
- Establish a mission-minded church planting movement within every unreached people group so that the Gospel is accessible to all people.
- Establish a Christian community of worship, instruction in the word, healing, fellowship, prayer, disciple making, evangelism, and missionary concern in every human community.

- The following section was added after Lausanne II in Manila.

**Calling the whole church to the whole Gospel to the whole world**

In July the International Congress on World Evangelism was held in Lausanne, Switzerland, and issued the Lausanne Covenant. Now in July 1989 over 3,000 of us from about 170 countries have met in Manila for the same purpose, and have issued the Manila Manifesto. We are grateful for the welcome we have received from our Filipino brothers and sisters.

During the 15 years which have elapsed between two congresses some smaller consultations have been held on topics like the Gospel and Culture, Evangelism and Conversion. These meetings and their reports have helped to develop the thinking of the Lausanne movement.

A “manifesto” is defined as a public declaration of convictions, intentions and motives. The Manila Manifesto takes up the two congress themes. “Proclaim Christ until he comes,” and “Calling the Whole Church to take the Whole Gospel to the Whole World.” Its first part is a series of 21 succinct affirmations. Its second part elaborates these in 12 sections, which are commended to churches, alongside the Lausanne Covenant, for study and action.

The following is an excerpt from Point C, The Whole World, taken from The Manila Manifesto of the Lausanne II conference.

**The Challenge of AD2000 and Beyond**

The world population today is approaching 6 billion. One third of them nominally confess Christ. For the remaining four billion, half have heard of Him and the other half have not. In the light of these figures, we evaluate our evangelistic task by considering four categories of people.

First, there is the potential missionary work force, the committed. In this century this category of Christian believers has grown from about 40 million in 1900 to about 500 million today, and at this moment is growing over twice as fast as any other major religious group.

Secondly, there are the uncommitted. They make a Christian profession (they have been baptized, attend church occasionally and even call themselves Christians), but the notion of a personal commitment to Christ is foreign to them. They are found in all churches throughout the world. They urgently need to be re-evangelized.

Thirdly, there are the unevangelized. These are people who have a minimal knowledge of the Gospel, but have had no valid opportunity to respond to it. They
are probably within reach of Christian people if only these will go to the next street, road, village or town to find them.

Fourthly, there are the unreached. These are the two billion who may never heard of Jesus as Savior, and are not within reach of Christians of their own people or nationalities in which there is not yet a vital, indigenous church movement. We find it helpful to think of them as belonging to smaller “people groups” which perceive themselves as having an affinity with each other (e.g., a common culture, language, home or occupation) and sacrificially identifying with the people they long to reach for Christ.

There are now about 12,000 such unreached people groups within the 2,000 larger peoples, so that the task is not impossible. Yet at present only 7% of all missionaries are engaged in this kind of outreach, while the remaining 93% are working in the already evangelized half of the world. If this imbalance is to be redressed, a strategic redeployment of personnel will be necessary.

A distressing factor that affects each of the above categories is that of inaccessibility. Many countries do not grant visas to self-styled missionaries, who have no other qualification or contribution to offer. Such areas are not absolutely inaccessible, however. For our prayers can pass through every curtain, door and barrier. And Christian radio and television, audio and video cassettes, films and literature can also reach the otherwise unreachable. So can so called “tent-makers” who like Paul earn their own living. They travel in the course of their profession (e.g., business people, university lecturers, technical specialists and language teachers) and use every opportunity to speak of Jesus Christ. They do not enter a country under false pretenses, for their work generally takes them there; it is simply that witness is an essential component of their Christian lifestyle, wherever they may happen to be. We are deeply ashamed that nearly two millennia have passed since the death and resurrection of Jesus, and still two-thirds of the world’s population have not acknowledged him. On the other hand, we are amazed at the mounting evidence of God’s power even in the most unlikely places of the globe.

Now the year 2000 has become for many a challenging milestone. Can we commit ourselves to evangelize the world during the last decade of this millennium? There is nothing magical about the date, yet should we not do our best to reach this goal? Christ commands us to take the Gospel to all people. The task is urgent. We are determined to obey Him with joy and hope.