

# connect the dots

## with Adults

Even as an adult I still enjoy creating a picture by connecting the dots. Sometimes it is obvious what the picture is going to be even before I start. But other times I don't know until I begin connecting the dots. The new growth plan for WMU® is all about connecting the dots:

- **D**iscover new members
- **O**rganize groups
- **T**each churches
- **S**potlight entry points

As missions leaders we desire for everyone to be as passionate about missions as we are. We have a tendency to get discouraged when we plan missions programs, events, and opportunities, and few people attend.

Think back to the time you were first involved in missions. How did you become involved? Maybe you are, as some would say, a “product” of WMU and you have never known a time when you were not involved. For those of you who identify with the previous statement, I applaud you, and at the same time, ask you to be patient with those who do not have the same missions history. We can't expect everyone to have the same zeal we have for missions, but oftentimes we do have that expectation, only to be disappointed.

For others, you are thinking back to a time when a friend or an acquaintance invited you to a specific missions event, and then you understood the “why” and the importance of missions education and involvement. Sometimes in spite of our efforts to get information out to everyone in our churches and associations, only a few participate. We need to take a few steps back and simply “invite” people to be a part of the missions efforts. A personal invitation is the best way to **discover new members**.

You may find as you discover new members that another group may emerge. This is a way to **organize new groups**. Be thankful for this growth! Don't discourage new organizations starting even though you may already have existing organizations within churches. I know of one church with six different Women on Mission®/Adults on Mission<sup>SM</sup> organizations. They meet at different times and each group defines its missions focus.

As a leadership team, divide and conquer. Identify churches in your community or association who do not provide any missions education opportunities. **Teach** them about the importance of missions education. Ask a church in the association with a strong missions education program to mentor this church and its missions leadership.

You can **spotlight entry points** by finding creative ways to introduce missions and missions education to the churches that are not likely to enter WMU through the missions education organizations. Introduce them to WorldCrafts<sup>SM</sup>, New Hope<sup>®</sup> resources, and adult and family missions trips through Missionsfest<sup>SM</sup> and Familyfest<sup>SM</sup>.

As we launch the growth plan, Connect the Dots, I pray you will be intentional with reaching out to those existing missions organizations in churches and to churches currently without missions education.