

# Characteristics of a World-focused Movement

by Mike Schatzman

*This article is a compilation of thoughts from MTL's and WSN directors on what it looks like to have a campus movement that is focused on reaching the world.*

## **MTL's see their scope as not just their campus, but as the world.**

Just as it was for Bill and Vonette Bright at UCLA, the world is part of the scope of their ministry on campus. The local movement becomes not an end in itself, but a means to an end. Even the WSN partnership isn't an end in itself, but a means to fulfilling the Great Commission. The end is the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

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One MTL put it this way, "When I walk into the SAE house to do a team meeting I am praying that there are SAEs who will come to Christ through this talk and go to East Asia." If the MTL does not completely own the world, it is difficult for the rest of the movement to own the world.

## **Each team member cares about the world.**

One MTL put it this way, "I want to keep our staff thinking about the world, which will pass along more naturally to the students with whom they work. I want us to feel the tension between the call to go to the ends of the earth ourselves or to stay and be mobilizers. Are we as staff asking the question, 'Is it time for me to go?' If we are staying to do US ministry, I want our staff to realize a key part of our job description is to help mobilize more to the world. As staff, we share this concept with our student leaders, so they begin to own it. We honestly tell our students that a big reason we are working with students is to raise up laborers for the world."

## **The staff team sees the end goal of the partnership as planting a student-led movement – not just sending teams.**

It is important, with every partnership, to continually keep in mind the main objective of the partnership – to plant a student-led movement on the partnership campus so that every student on that campus can hear the gospel.

This is what makes WSN unique – we don't just send staff and students so

that they can have a unique faith-stretching experience (though that happens). We send strategically, so that we can plant a student-led movement in another country that will outlive the length of our partnership there.

To accomplish this it will take serious focus and a serious commitment of resources. Just like in the US, student-led movements cannot be planted only through summer ministry. It takes a year round ministry presence (STINT and ICS) to see a movement planted.

**Consistent prayer is happening for the world – at student meetings, campus prayer times, small groups, staff meeting and leadership meetings.**

A few years ago we asked former STINTers to identify the main reasons they went overseas. One of the top 3 reasons they stated was that their movement prayed for the world. This doesn't have to mean a special weekly prayer time for the world. That makes the world feel like a bit of "an add-on" to the scope of the campus, rather than a part of the scope of the campus. Ideally, prayer for your partnership and the world happens whenever you gather as a staff team or student leaders to pray for your campus, reaching freshmen, the Greek system, ethnic students, etc.

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I was talking to two WSN champions recently about how to enfold the world into their movement. They began to talk about when they could organize a special world prayer time. The logistics of organizing another meeting were a bit overwhelming. As we talked more I discovered they already had a weekly campus prayer time. We then began to talk about how they could pray for the world, as well as their campus, during that prayer time. This felt doable to them and that they were simply enfolding the world into their scope.

**Vision for the world is consistently cast throughout the year – not just once or twice a year at a special world focused meeting.**

Several campuses have a special weekly meeting once a year where they highlight their partnership. Much time and effort is put into organizing a Skype call, shooting a video and pulling the meeting off. While helpful, this probably won't be enough to truly cast vision for the partnership. It is similar to the guy who plans a big anniversary celebration for his wife, but doesn't communicate his love for her throughout the year.

Movements that really embrace the world find ways to talk about their partnership often. The emcee of a weekly meeting talks about Cru as "reaching the campus, XYZ country, and the world". One and two minute partnership updates are given regularly, testimonies of students who have gone happen at

various times throughout the year, and STINTers from the campus are highlighted. The partnership is talked about with regularity so that reaching the world becomes a normal part of the movement.

One MTL put it this way, “Talking about the partnership just becomes part of who we are and what we do because we know that there are people on the other end of the world who will or will not hear the gospel, depending on whether or not we go.”

*“Talking about the partnership just becomes part of who we are and what we do.”*

### **Highlight the partnership, but call to the world**

God’s heart for the world permeates God’s word. If we are committed to having Biblically based movements, then God’s heart for the world should permeate our movement also—we want our staff and students to embrace God’s heart for all nations.

One MTL said, “While we emphasize Cru opportunities, we applaud and recruit to the world in a bigger sense and are thrilled when people do other worthwhile ministries outside of Cru. I don’t want to give the impression that we only care about Cru ministry, but we do talk about the strategic nature of what we do.”

### **The MTL and the staff team are participating in the partnership. A world-focused movement flows from their engagement.**

For new staff this usually looks like a commitment from them to get to their partnership within their first 2 years on campus. For senior staff, this usually looks like them going to the partnership every 3 years (on summer project, a vision trip, shepherding visit or STINT). Said one MTL, “MTLs need to lead the way on this. If the boss doesn’t have the vision and doesn’t go, it’s hard for it to trickle down.”

### **Summer projects, vision trips and STINT are seen as strategic opportunities to grow student leaders from the sending campus.**

Since its inception, one of the hallmarks of WSN is that we give young leaders (both staff and students) a chance to lead. More and more students are leading summer projects. STINT teams are often led by STINTers who just graduated college the previous spring.

World focused movements take advantage of this and recruit leadership students to lead summer projects or to have some type of leadership role on the project. One MTL goes on summer project to his partnership often and takes his top student leaders with him. He said, “I get 24/7 access to their lives for 6

weeks. It is the best discipleship time I get with them. 6 weeks overseas with them equals about 3 semesters of discipleship.”

**Resources (people, money, materials) are sacrificially given to the partnership.**

Resources are always scarce. It is a reality of our jobs. Leaders often have to make hard decisions when it comes to allocating resources. Movements that are world-focused consider the reality of their partnership campus as well as their US campus when they are discussing staffing issues. When they send people to their partnership campus they don't view it as a loss, but as an extension of their movement.

When it comes to sending people, these movements are continually discussing as a staff team who they will challenge for STINT and summer project. They are making plans for how to challenge them and they are praying for laborers. “We talk about our end of partnership commitment. We want to send 4 on stint and 8-12 on WSN SP to our partnership each year. So who's going this year?” one MTL said.

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World focused movements give money towards their partnership as well. Money is raised for the partnership just like it is raised for reaching freshmen, Greeks, or winter conference scholarships for the sending campus. The partnership is simply an extension of the sending campus. This money helps provide an operating budget for the STINT team.

“We send 1-2 vision trips a year and those trips are largely funded internally. Not by the campus account but by students giving to students. We see it as a way to help our students who are not going be part of sending. Students who start giving to the world start caring about the world,” stated an MTL.

These above characteristics of world-focused movements could be summarized with just six verbs. The world focused movement:

- OWNS the world
- PRAYS for the world
- TALKS about the world
- GOES to the world
- SENDS to the world
- GIVES to the world