



MOVEMENT FOR AFRICAN NATIONAL INITIATIVES - AN OVERVIEW -

What is the Movement for African National Initiatives (MANI)?

MANI is an African movement, *a network of networks and African National Initiatives*, focused on catalyzing African National Initiatives and mobilizing the resources of the Body of Christ in Africa for the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

MANI's stated purpose is to affirm, motivate, mobilize and network Christian leaders by inspiring them with the vision of reaching the unreached and least evangelized in Africa, and the wider world, through the communication of up to date research, reports and models; consultations and prayer efforts focusing on the unfinished task.

MANI encourages the mobilization of national churches in partnership with the wider body of Christ to:

1. Identify and reach out to the *least evangelized people groups, geographical areas and classes of society in their country (pioneer church planting)*.
2. Play a significant role in reaching the *least evangelized peoples and nations worldwide (world mission)*.
3. Develop a cooperative national strategy designed to *saturate their country with accessible groups of believers (saturation church planting) and facilitate a process of transformation*.

Basic assumptions underlying MANI

1. That the Church in Africa has a critical role in the fulfillment of the Great Commission in the 21st century.
2. That the Church in Africa has the primary ministry gifts, manpower and material resources needed to complete the task in Africa, and to make a significant contribution towards global evangelization.
3. That through the mobilization and focused deployment of the resources of the African Church - in partnership with the global church - the vision, of 'a church for every people and the gospel for every person' can be realized in the countries of Africa, and a significant contribution made toward global evangelization.

A Movement rooted in African History

Over the past forty years, 37 African countries have launched National Initiatives to mobilize churches and ministries for national and global evangelization. Such initiatives are deeply rooted in the history of the continent.

The starting point was during the 1960's when many African nations gained independence. This great move toward liberation gave birth to a new sense of African destiny. Political change inspired a corresponding change in the Church with a major surge toward indigenous leadership. Many leadership positions occupied by missionaries were handed over to nationals.

During the mid-1960's, saturation evangelism movements were launched in two nations. The Evangelism In Depth movement was initiated in Zaire, followed by the New Life For All movement on the central plateau of Nigeria. African churches began to commit to work together for the evangelization of their countries through the mass training and mobilization of lay people for evangelism. This created a rippled effect as other nations took note of what was happening and training was shared.

These movements helped to catalyze the emergence of the Ghana Evangelism Committee (GEC) during the 1970's. The GEC emphasized mobilizing the whole Church for renewal, church planting, church growth and missions. In the first ten years of the program, there was a net increase of 8785 new churches in Ghana. A national survey followed in the mid-1980's during which 23,000 towns were surveyed. A total of 14,711 were discovered to have no church presence at all. These findings challenged the existing denominations to accelerate church planting efforts targeting the least-evangelized communities in Ghana.

During the latter 1980's, the Target 2000 Movement emerged in Zimbabwe. A national survey on the Harvest Field and Harvest Force led to the setting of a national goal in 1992 by 60 denominations to plant 10,000 new churches by the year 2000.

At the same time, the FinTask Movement was launched in Nigeria with major impact in mobilizing the Church for mission. This cooperative national effort led to the multiplication of churches in Nigeria and a significant outpouring of Nigerian missionaries targeting the least evangelized peoples within and outside the country.

What began as a trickle in the 1970's became a flood by the 1990's. During that decade three global movements and ministries found Africa to be a fertile soil in which to plant their strategies: the AD 2000 and Beyond Movement with its emphasis on unreached people groups and saturation evangelism/church planting; Interdev - strategic evangelism partnerships and Dawn Ministries - saturation church planting.

In July 1997 1,200 African leaders from forty-six nations came together in a consultation on African National Initiatives at the GCOWE '97 in South Africa. This consultation accelerated the birthing and development of structured African National Initiatives. This catalytic event led to the proliferation of new national movements, such as *Finish the Task Kenya*. A further development in 1997 was the adoption of African National Initiatives as its basic strategy by the Evangelism and Missions Commission of AEA.

At the end of 2000 forty-six African countries linked with the African National Initiatives movement planned to attend 'Celebrate Messiah 2000' in Jerusalem. When the event was cancelled African delegations determined that they must still go to Jerusalem to consult together on the unfinished task in Africa and the world.

How did MANI begin?

In the last decade of the 20th century, the AD 2000 and Beyond Movement encouraged many nations in Africa to develop National Initiatives to mobilize national churches to respond to the Great Commission mandate. Through these National Initiatives the Body of Christ in many African nations was challenged to reach the unreached and it was with joyful anticipation that country delegations prepared to attend Celebrate Messiah 2000 in Jerusalem at the end of the year 2000 to celebrate and share the blessings of God. When Celebrate Messiah 2000 was canceled at the eleventh hour, African delegations determined that they must still 'go up to Jerusalem' to celebrate and consult together on the unfinished task in Africa and the world.

In March 2001, 320 delegates from 36 African nations met in Jerusalem for the African Millennial Consultation. In the course of the consultations there was a growing conviction that

Africa's hour had come. Everyone felt that the Church in Africa was to take primary responsibility for the final gospel thrust in Africa, and that the African Church was uniquely positioned to play a major role in world evangelization in the 21st century.

Recognizing that the AD 2000 and Beyond Movement, as an organization, was in the process of disbanding, and that there yet remained much to be done, the participants determined to establish a continuing African movement. Participants unanimously adopted the 'Jerusalem Declaration,' affirming their commitment to pick up the torch for national and global evangelization, as laid down by the AD 2000 and Beyond Movement. Thus the Movement for African National Initiatives (MANI) was birthed out of the death of the AD 2000 and Beyond Movement.

The Jerusalem Declaration is explicit on the fact that the African Church 'is of age' and ready to accept the challenge of completing the task in Africa, and that Africa become an active partner in global evangelization. The Movement for African National Initiatives is to be a network of networks for Africa, and the world, for the fulfillment of the Great Commission in Africa and beyond.

Who coordinates MANI?

MANI is coordinated by a team consisting of a Continental Coordinator and seven Regional Coordinators. The Team seeks to facilitate the MANI vision at a continental level and works with National Coordinators, Regional and National Church and Missions leaders, Network Coordinators and Task Force leaders.

What is the Role of Continental and Regional Coordinators?

The role of the Continental and Regional Coordinators is to function together as a team:

1. Catalyzing and keeping the MANI vision - keeping a primary focus on the unfinished task in Africa and the development of an African missions movement with global impact;
2. Planning for and facilitating the MANI process;
3. Developing policies and the observance of codes of practice;
4. Providing accountability and requiring it at appropriate levels;
5. Providing encouragement and appropriate levels of assistance to National Coordinators;
6. Encouraging and facilitating Regional Consultations at appropriate times;
7. Editing and approving special reports to be released on MANI E group;
8. Provide liaison with global and continental networks.

Note: All MANI leaders without email access to be encouraged to establish either a hotmail or yahoo address with their nearest internet cafe.

What is the Selection Criteria for Regional and National Coordinators

1. **Credibility:** An active member of a local church, recognized by national leaders and respected by the different segments of the church as in good standing in his or her immediate Christian community. In the case of a National Coordinator a letter of recommendation from the leadership of his/her ministry or denomination will be required.
2. **Experience:** A responsible Christian leader who is recognized in a particular interest area or resource network. Regional Coordinators must have a proven track record in facilitating a functioning National Initiative and National Coordinators in facilitating inter church activities.
3. **Bridge builder:** Prepared to build bridges between God's people within his/her country, region and internationally.

4. **Spiritual maturity:** Above reproach in his or her testimony; approved by church leadership in the country and with his or her own accountability support structure.
5. **Vision:** Burden for the church in his or her region/country and for the evangelization of the region/country. A person who desires to see a church for every people and the gospel for every person in his/her region, country and the world.
6. **Team player:** Works well with others. Can comfortably interact with others who might disagree with him or her while maintaining mutual respect.
7. **Leadership qualities with organizational support:** Has the financial support base and organizational structure to facilitate National Initiatives within his or her region or country.
8. **A person of faith:** Prepared to trust God for finances and other resources necessary to carry out his or her job description and related activities in his or her region/country.
9. **Ability to communicate:** Must be able to communicate in the regional/national language of his or her region/country. Must also have a capability for email communication and be will to acknowledge receipt of all MANI related messages and provide at least an initial response, within 72 hours, to messages requesting feed back.
10. **Action:** Must be pro-active. Must see that the appropriate action steps are being taken to bring about the realization of the goals and purposes of MANI in his or her region/country.

What is the Job Description for Regional Coordinators?

1. Casting and stimulating the vision of MANI in the countries within his or her region.
2. Facilitating on-going National Initiatives and seeing that initiatives are launched in countries where none exist.
3. Encouraging National Coordinators in the execution of their responsibilities.
4. Coordinating regional activities, programmes and projects.
5. Being accountable to MANI Continental Coordinating Team (i.e. Continental and all Regional Coordinators), National Coordinators in his or her Region and his or her own accountability structure.
6. Mentoring National Coordinators and Regional Resource Network Coordinators in his or her Region.
7. Communicating information related to MANI's objectives to Continental, Regional and National levels of the movement.
8. Providing liaison between National Initiatives with in his or her Region and the continent.
9. Generating resources to carry out Regional programmes and keeping adequate accounting records of all financial transactions related to MANI projects.
10. Identifying and recommending credible leaders for National Initiatives and Resource Networks.
11. Providing encouraging reports and models related to the MANI vision for circulation on MANI E groups and for publication.

What is the Job Description for National Coordinators?

1. Casting and stimulating the vision of MANI in his or her country.
2. Facilitating on-going National and State/Provincial Initiatives and seeing that initiatives are launched where none exist.
3. Encouraging Network and State/Provincial Coordinators in the execution of their responsibilities.
4. Coordinating national activities, programmes and projects.
5. Being accountable to MANI Regional Coordinator for his or her Region and his or her own accountability structure.
6. Mentoring Network and State/Provincial Coordinators in his or her country.

7. Communicating information related to MANI's objectives to Continental and Regional levels of the movement.
8. Providing liaison with National Initiatives with in his or her Region and the continent.
9. Generating resources to carry out National programmes and keeping adequate accounting records of all financial transactions related to MANI projects.
10. Identifying and recommending credible leaders for National Networks and State/Provincial Initiatives.
11. Providing encouraging reports and models related to the MANI vision for circulation on MANI E groups and for publication.

How is the Movement to be financed?

MANI is primarily a catalytic movement networking and operating through existing organizational structures. As such it is not a funding agency. It is not anticipated that MANI will establish itself with its own office and paid staff. Rather it is expected that those who serve as coordinators at continental, regional, national and ministry levels will do so from and with the support of their existing ministry base.

1. Consultations at continental, regional, national and ministry levels should be planned as self funding projects.
2. An annual plan and budget is to be prepared by the Continental and Regional Coordinators for publications, newsletters, email groups, office expenses, seed money for consultations, travel of regional coordinators etc.
3. All support gifts designated for MANI are to be receipted and if possible held in a dollar banking account to be operated by the Continental Coordinator.
4. Income and expense accounts are to be prepared quarterly by the Continental Coordinator and copied to the Regional Coordinators.

How does the Movement relate to existing structures in Africa?

MANI does not see itself as having a monopoly on the task of evangelization in Africa. Nor does it have the manpower, ministry giftings and material resources for the completion of the task. These resources are to be found in the denominations, churches, ministries and mission agencies that make up the Body of Christ.

MANI is a movement committed to affirming and serving existing structures and ministries as a catalyst and network of networks for the mobilization of the Body of Christ in cooperative efforts to reach the least evangelized nationally, regionally and globally.

MANI's commitment is to servanthood and cooperation with continental, regional and national structures, networks and ministries called to the Great Commission mandate.

To which global structures does MANI relate?

The members of the MANI Continental team have established relationships with the Great Commission Roundtable, WEA Missions Commission, Third World Missions Association, Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, Joshua Project and the Association of Evangelicals in Africa.

It is anticipated that MANI will adopt the following documents related to the above bodies:

- GCR Code of Best Practices
- Lausanne Covenant as MANI's doctrinal statement.
- Joshua Project definitions and security standards

MANI REGIONS

ANGLOPHONE WEST AFRICA

Cape Verde (Portuguese)
Gambia
Ghana
Nigeria
Guinea Bissau (Portuguese)
Liberia
Sierra Leone

FRANCOPHONE WEST AFRICA

Benin
Burkina Faso
Cote d'Ivoire
Guinea
Mali
Mauritania
Niger
Senegal
Togo

FRANCOPHONE CENTRAL AFRICA

Cameroon
Central African Rep.
Chad
Congo -Brazzaville
Congo Democratic Rep
Equatorial Guinea (Spanish)
Gabon
Sao Tome & Principe (Portuguese)

HORN

Djibouti (French)
Eritrea (English)
Ethiopia (English)
Sudan (English)

EAST AFRICA

Burundi (French)
Kenya (English)
Rwanda (French)
Somalia
Tanzania (English)
Uganda (English)

INDIAN OCEAN

Comoros (French)
Madagascar (French)
Mauritius (English/French)
Mayotte (French)
Reunion (French)
Seychelles (English)

SOUTHERN AFRICA - PORTUGUESE

Angola (Portuguese)
Mozambique (Portuguese)

SOUTHERN AFRICA - ANGLOPHONE

Botswana (English)

Lesotho	(English)
Malawi	(English)
South Africa	(English)
Namibia	(English)
Swaziland	(English)
Zambia	(English)
Zimbabwe	(English)

For more information relating to MANI and African National Initiatives, you may contact MANI by Email at info@MANIafrica.com or visit the new MANI website (currently under development) at www.MANIafrica.com.