

## ***Administrative Challenges Facing MI Members***

Over the past 12-18 months, we have noted that some of our members are struggling with a number of converging issues that threaten their ability to be an active and effective participant in the task of world evangelisation. It is recognised that our members may benefit from working together more to find solutions to common problems. So there may be a greater need today for the sharing of -

- [a] Information to enable our members to make wise decisions; and/or
- [b] Administrative services to improve efficiency/reduce overheads.

In fact a recent NSW Council of Social Services study stated that small NGOs must look at adopting efficient practices and “take advantage of economies of scale, cooperative practices and optimal use of resources” to help maximise their chance of long-term viability.

Also in the light of current review on charities before the Senate Committee and the pending Tax Review, the administration of smaller MI members will become a more pressing issue, especially if some of the major changes being talked about are put in place. It may mean that we as MI members may need to look more closely into doing something to help each other in this area. As we have looked at this issue as it relates to our members, three key questions come to mind –

- [1] What are the important reporting areas that members need to satisfy?**
- [2] Is there a *realistic* model for outsourcing some administrative services operating within Australia which could be utilised by some of our members?**

A list of some of the relevant administrative roles a model could include –

- Finances
- Tax
- Payroll
- Governance
- Risk Management
- Legal/Regulatory environment
- Fundraising
- Information Communication Technology
- Policy Development
- Procurement
- Internal Audit
- Worker Visas
- Human Resources
- 

- [3] What could be the role of Missions Interlink/Evangelical Alliance/Christian Management Australia in all of this?**

We note the changes that have gone on over recent years in so many reporting areas. What one sincere volunteer might have been able to accomplish in the past now requires a battery of experts in a variety of disciplines. This is where collaboration and a shared administrative services environment could provide a significant advantage to our members.

We recognise that there might be 4-5 fears that hinder our members from cooperating in ways that will help them become more effective in ministry:

- [i] The fear of losing fiscal control;
- [ii] The fear of what it may cost;
- [iii] The fear of suffering compliance shortfalls;
- [iv] The fear of the loss of confidentiality; and
- [v] The fear of losing ministry identity.

While recognising these fears are there, we believe that there are a **variety of options** available to meet these administrative challenges they may be facing. These could include –

