

<i>Document:</i>	Creating Regional Chapters in the USA to Help Evangelization and Prayer Groups		
<i>Date:</i>	Jan 2006		
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Revisions:	Date	Initials	Description
A	2-16-2006	MJ	Updated names of the Associations based on feedback from others. Added this Revision box. Previous revisions not documented.
B	4-8-2006	MJ	Minor wording changes.
C	5-31-2006	MJ	Added Betsy and Jo Ann for Midwest – South region. Changed 5 new chapters to 6 new chapters since MO has not responded.
D	6-01-2006	MJ	Added regional email addresses. Changed western region contacts.
F	6-5-2006	MJ	Elaine French declined in Northeast.
G	6-7-2006	MJ	Added Armin to West chapter.
H	6-9-2006	MJ	Sara has officially accepted resp. for Northeast region. John Cambell has accepted responsibility for Midwest-North.
I	6-10-2006	MJ	Iowa has been added to the Midwest North region. It was accidentally omitted before.
J	11-3-2006	MJ	Changed map so that it is clearly sectioned.
K	12-10-2006	MJ	Added the 5 steps in order to share with others.
L	11-4-2009	MJ	Removed contact names and made comment to reference website

Goal: Spread the Messages more effectively.

Problem: The United States is a huge country. Centralized coordination slows down the progress of Evangelization, Prayer Groups and propagation of the Messages.

Solution: Establish regional “chapters” or just plain old “regions” with people responsible for those areas, thus creating a more decentralized model with much more focus and, hopefully, effectiveness.

Quick Summary

What we did:

1. Defined the geographic areas.
2. Identified potential people to take responsibility of those regions.
3. Defined and assigned responsibility to those people.
4. Contacted them to see if they were up for the job.
5. Created method of accountability.

What we focused on:

1. Form Prayer Groups
2. Organize witness meetings and book tables events
3. Stock books and materials
4. Hold retreats every so often
5. Prison evangelization where possible
6. Attend international pilgrimages and retreats
7. Send in monthly reports

For further information, send an email to the regional contacts, listed online at <http://www.tlig.org/en/contact/assoc/#usa>.

More in depth

1. Defined the geographic areas.

First we looked at the map of the USA. Then we drew some lines to break up 6 somewhat equal regions. We decided on 6 regions based on a few things. The USA could have had many more regions but we needed to be realistic. Too many regions would have been too hard to manage. At least initially. We decided to go in steps. Six was a nice feasible number and lent itself well to the way the USA is laid out.

After the lines on the map were drawn, we looked closer at the States that were in those areas. We obtained the population statistics on each of those States and did a little math. We did not want any one region to have an unbalanced number of people in it. All that stuff we found on the Internet with a Google search.

Another factor that weighed in was the amount of current TLIG activity in those regions. Areas that were already working hard and where there were a fair amount of prayer groups could take on a bit more than an area that was starting from scratch.

2. Identified potential people to take responsibility of those regions.

Now that we had our regions defined, we needed to find people in those areas to take on the responsibility. We brainstormed to come up with a list of people in each region that were responsible, active readers and workers in TLIG. We wanted two or three people, minimum, to take the responsibility.

3. Defined and assigned responsibility to those people.

Once we had our list of potentials, we needed to define what we were going to ask of them. Here is what Vassula defined as goals/responsibilities for the regions.

a) Form Prayer Groups.

- First and foremost, in order to help form prayer groups, one must be in a prayer group themselves that meets weekly if possible.
- Ideally, they should be willing to even travel and stay overnight at the person's home in order to help them get their group started. This was successfully done in Switzerland and France. Probably elsewhere too.
- They must also try to ensure that all Prayer Groups are READING the MESSAGES.

b) Organize witness meetings and other evangelization events

- Goal is to have one witness meeting per month in each region.
- Be willing to invite them from abroad.

- Follow the DVD that Vassula and Robert Lepricard made in Switzerland. Following the French model. See video at <http://www.tlig.org/en/mission/evangelise/info/orgvideo/>
 - Also set up book tables in public areas
- c) Keep a stock of books, videos, tapes, DVDs etc.
These will be used for the witness meetings and book tables events.
- d) Prepare retreats every so often.
- e) Evangelize in prisons where it is feasible.
- f) Attend International Retreats and, especially, the Pilgrimages

"It is important that people are encouraged to attend the International Pilgrimages and Retreats as it presents an opportunity for people of different confessional denominations and cultures to gather together and encounter a fruitful religious and cultural exchange. All participants have the opportunity to experience ecumenical inter-action and discussion, getting to know each other better in circumstances that encourage unity and fellowship, transcending doctrinal and nationalistic separation, isolation and self-sufficiency."

- g) Give monthly reports to Bro. Otfried (evangelization@tlig.org) of evangelizing activities in their region

4. Contacted them to see if they were up for the job.

Now that we had the list of responsibilities, it was time to ask the "candidates", one by one, if they wanted the "job". They were all encouraged to pray about it and discern if this was indeed a calling for them. For some it took a few days, others a week or so, but in the end we had all the regional volunteers. Also worth noting is that each of the people were called on the telephone and not send a simple email. For such an important purpose, it was better to make more personal contact. Then, a follow up email summarizing the responsibilities so that they could refer back to them in their reflection time.

5. Created method of accountability

In addition to giving monthly reports to Bro Otfried who coordinates, in part, all the worldwide reports, the regions also share all their reports with one another. In this way there is a means of helping each other by sharing experiences and knowledge, but also generates a natural way of encouraging each other to persevere and continue to work hard.

Actual Regional Breakdown in USA

Below are the final regional breakdowns for the United States. It is my understanding that Canada also is underway with the same strategy, breaking Canada in 7 regions instead of 6. May God Bless their work and ours ... all of ours.



Assoc	States	Population	Area
			(square miles)
			(land only)
American Association for TLIG - Northeast		90,424,966	308,165
(see website for Current contacts)	Maine	1,274,923	3,861
	Vermont	608,827	9,250
	New Hampshire	1,235,786	8,968
	Massachusetts	6,349,097	7,840
	Rhode Island	1,048,319	1,045
	Connecticut	3,405,565	4,544
	New York	18,976,457	47,214
Regional Email: northeast@tlig.us	New Jersey	8,414,350	7,417
	Pennsylvania	12,281,054	44,816
	Michigan	9,938,444	56,803
	Ohio	11,353,140	40,948
	Delaware	783,600	1,954
	District of Columbia	572,059	61
	Maryland	5,296,486	9,773

	West Virginia	1,808,344	24,077
	Virginia	7,078,515	39,594

American Association for TLIG Southeast

(see website for
Current contacts)

Regional Email:
southeast@tlig.us

		57,721,185	412,808
	Florida	15,982,378	53,926
	Georgia	8,186,453	57,906
	North Carolina	8,049,313	48,711
	South Carolina	4,012,012	30,109
	Virgin Islands		
	Alabama	4,447,100	50,744
	Kentucky	4,041,012	39,728
	Louisiana	4,468,976	43,561
	Mississippi	2,844,658	46,906
	Tennessee	5,689,283	41,217

**American Association for
TLIG Midwest-North**

(see website for
Current contacts)

Regional Email:
midwest-north@tlig.us

		31,891,239	448,377
	Illinois	12,419,293	55,584
	Indiana	6,080,485	55,583
	Wisconsin	5,363,675	35,867
	Minnesota	4,919,479	79,610
	North Dakota	642,200	68,976
	South Dakota	754,844	75,885
	Nebraska	1,711,263	76,872

**American Association for
TLIG Midwest-South**

(see website for
Current contacts)

Regional Email:
midwest-south@tlig.us

		41,379,810	758,307
	Kansas	2,688,418	81,815
	Missouri	5,595,211	68,886
	Arkansas	2,673,400	52,068
	Oklahoma	3,450,654	68,667
	Texas	20,851,820	261,797
	New Mexico	1,819,046	121,356
	Colorado	4,301,261	103,718

American Association for TLIG West

(see website for

		44,445,243	467,986
	California	33,871,648	155,959
	Hawaii	1,211,537	6,422

Current contacts)	Nevada	1,998,257	109,826
	Utah	2,233,169	82,144
Regional Email:	Arizona	5,130,632	113,635

west@tlig.us

American Association TLIG Northwest

	Alaska	12,635,382	1,059,891
(see website for	Idaho	626,932	571,951
Current contacts)	Montana	1,293,953	82,747
	Oregon	905,195	145,552
Regional Email:	Washington	3,421,399	95,997
northwest@tlig.us	Wyoming	5,894,121	66,544
		493,782	97,100