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| Slide Number | Script |
| 1 | Welcome to this presentation called Pray Your Way Around the World!  COVID-19 may have slowed our travels, but it cannot stop our prayers—praise God, because the call to reach the cities is urgent, and the task is huge.  In these few minutes together, I would like to share about this call, and also, offer a tool for the task. |
| 2 | As we get started, I should give you a little context.  This presentation comes to you from the Mission to the Cities initiative.  Of course, Mission to the Cities is a part of the “I Will Go!” 2020-2025 strategic focus of the Reach the World Strategic Plan voted by the General Conference.  It’s a mouthful, but in summary, Mission to the Cities is an important part of the General Conference’s strategic plan. |
| 3 | I believe this is because it is something Ellen White focused on so strongly.  More than 100 years ago, Ellen White was urging the Seventh-day Adventist church to reach the world’s large cities.  Her writings about this are available to you in the book Ministry to the Cities.  I encourage you to download this and read it on your phone.  Here are a few brief quotes you can read there: |
| 4 | “Oh that we might see the needs of these cities as God sees them!”5 she wrote. |
| 5 | “The work in the cities is the essential work for this time.”6 |
| 6 | “Work the cities without delay, for time is short.”7 |
| 7 | By 1900, around the time when she was writing these urgent appeals and so many more about the needs of the cities, there were **already 15 cities** on earth that each had a population of more than a million residents.8  It must have felt like an overwhelming challenge for a church of just over 75,000 members worldwide!  We have imagined that if the church in 1900 had decided to lay out a diagram showing those 15 largest cities—if, just as a reminder to pray, they had imaginatively laid them out to look like a railroad map, perhaps that map could have looked something like this: |
| 8 | These are the cities that would have been on the map: |
| 9 | * You can see Chicago and Philadelphia and New York in what is now the North American Division. |
| 10 | * Paris and Vienna are there in what is now the Inter-European Division. |
| 11 | * And down on the other end, we see Tokyo in what is now the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.   15 cities, each with over a million residents.  Now, 120 years have passed since then, and our map and our challenge today are a little different: |
| 12 | Today there are more than 600 cities that each has more than one million residents.  More specifically, these are agglomerations.  Agglomerations are large urban regions made up of several smaller cities that, over time, have grown into each other and have merged into what feels like one huge city.  We took the list of 600 agglomerations, and laid it out to look like a subway map—sort of a fun reminder to pray for these cities!  But let’s take a closer look at this map.  What do the details of the map tell us? |
| 13 | The cities on the map are organized by the divisions and fields of the world church.  Each division is represented by a different color. |
| 14 | So, the city of Freetown, over here in brown, belongs to the West-Central Africa Division, |
| 15 | and the city of Rome, up here in Blue, is on the line that represents the Inter-European Division.  There are 16 of these divisions and fields, represented by lines in 16 colors. |
| 16 | The map also shows us the approximate size of each agglomeration. |
| 17 | So, these small circles represent agglomerations or large cities that have more than 1 million people living there, but less than 10 million. |
| 18 | Triangles, such as the one you see here for Cairo, represent agglomerations with more than 10 million people, but less than 20 million. |
| 19 | And the largest size city is a hexagon with more than 40 million residents!  What cities are that large? |
| 20 | Tokyo is the world’s largest agglomeration, with more than 40 million people.  But there are actually two agglomerations of over 40 million people! |
| 21 | The other is Guangzhou, China!  These are massive urban areas, both of which are largely unreached. |
| 22 | In case, like me, you have some trouble imagining 40 million of anything, I’ll just comment that there are 88 countries\* whose total population combined would not be greater than that of the Tokyo agglomeration!  And of course, the same thing could be said of the Guangzhou agglomeration!  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \*(88 countries found at <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/population-by-country/>, accessed 2021.01.27. The combined population of the smallest 88 countries listed there is 37,048,262. |
| 23 | But back to the map! There’s more here!  We’ve also tried to draw attention to the divisions and agglomerations that are in the 10/40 Window, which is the region of the world that is the least reached by the Gospel. |
| 24 | So, the divisions that are in the 10/40 Window have been made to stand out—these are the thick lines on the map, while the divisions outside the 10/40 Window are thinner lines. |
| 25 | And then there are the prayer focus cities.  We’ve marked these with a double circle to help them stand out.  We ask for your special prayers for the people in these cities, who we believe are near and dear to God’s heart. |
| 26 | We have been urged to work the cities, but it’s really a huge task!  And with such a huge task before us, surely the only place to begin is prayer!  Like I said, the reason for the map is to call members around the world to pray for the cities.  We invite you to join the urban prayer team!  Download this map, print it, and use it to pray for one city each day.  After you pray for a city, check it off.  If you pray for one city each day, in about a year and a half, you will pray your way around the world. |
| 27 | We have shared the prayer map at events in the past, and we recently received an email message with this photo from a woman named Shirley.  You can see how Shirley has used a red pen to mark off each city that she has prayed for.  Praise God for faithful praying people like Shirley! |
| 28 | We encourage you to pray specifically!  When you pray for a city, such as Bangkok,   * Pray for the leaders of the city. * Pray for the parents, children and families. |
| 29 | * Pray for the health of the residents. * Pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare hearts to receive truth. |
| 30 | * Pray for members who are seeking to reach out there. |
| 31 | * Pray for centers of influence to be started and to grow strong. |
| 32 | We have heard from elementary schools and Sabbath schools that are using the map to pray around the world.  Churches have also used the map to pray together for the cities, and we encourage you to invite your church to join together to pray around the world! |
| 33 | The teacher at this Sabbath school, at the Cashmere Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Washington State, wrote prayers on cards to help the children know different things to pray for and what to say as they pray for each city.  Each child in the class is given a different color of marker for checking off their cities so that they can always find the cities they themselves have prayed for. |
| 34 | At the Hillside Elementary School in Wisconsin, students pray together each day for one city.  One student will pray for the homeless, another prays for missionaries, and another prays for the education of the students in that city. |
| 35 | At the Forest Lake Education Center in Florida, a school with more than 600 students, each grade was assigned a different line of the map to pray for.  Students learned about the cities on that line, and the cultures represented, and prayed together for a city each week.  Together, the students of the school prayed for all the cities on the map. |
| 36 | These are encouraging stories, and they give us ideas of what can be done.  But if we want to see the work in the cities expand, let’s begin by expanding the work of prayer!  Right now we have a few churches and schools in one division praying, but what might happen if members around the world joined together in prayer for the cities! |
| 37 | The map is available to be downloaded at the Mission to the Cities website.  Just go to MissiontotheCities.org, and click the ”Resources” tab.  Then click “Get Your Prayer Map Now!” |
| 38 | That will take you straight to the page where there are maps available in various sizes for free download. |
| 39 | Also, at the Vision page of the Mission to the Cities website, you can download a free copy of the book Ministry to the Ctiies in English, and other languages are there as well. |
| 40 | Ellen White wrote that night after night, she was unable to sleep because of the unwarned cities.  Let us pray that our churches will share this concern for the unreached cities.  Please pray for the people in these unwarned cities that they may know Jesus! |
| 41 | Download prayer maps to print for your church or school at MissiontotheCities.org.  Start today to pray your way around the world! |