

# The Kuwait Affirmation

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## **PREAMBLE**

At the occasion of the tenth anniversary gathering of the Missional International Church Network (MICN) in Kuwait on April 17, 2013, an informal meeting was held with leaders of five ministries: The Lighthouse Church (TLC Kuwait), Missional International Church Network (MICN), Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA), Lighthouse Outreaches, and Vision International University. Together we make these affirmations.

The Holy Spirit has united us not only to Jesus Christ but also to his body, which spans the globe. Together we seek to understand what God is doing in and through the MICN and International Churches around the world and to ask: Is there something to be done using our combined expertise to develop and strengthen the MICN so leaders of international churches could be inspired to greater vision, encouragers of one another, and equipped through relationships to not only engage, but thrive in their unique environments.

## **AFFIRMATIONS**

### **1. WE ARE CHRIST CENTERED IN ALL WE DO**

We are all committed to the Kingdom of God and see Jesus at the very center of all we dream, plan or do. We will stay focused on His mission, and pray to be empowered by The Holy Spirit.

### **2. WE ARE IN A KAIROS MOMENT**

We are at a point in history where the church, and our approach to mission, faces challenges that we have never seen before. The impact of globalization, particularly the challenge of ministering to diaspora people moving about the world, requires new attitudes and strategies in order to equip the church to take a great forward step in the work God has entrusted to our care. We do not want to 'sit this one out.' We are committed to getting involved.

### **3. WE NEED INTERNATIONAL CHURCHES IN THE RIGHT LOCATIONS, WITH THE RIGHT LEADERS**

We discern that International Churches have a new role today. People from "the ends of the earth" are coming to these churches where they can be equipped and unleashed into their world. For them to be effective as missional oriented churches it will require the leadership of vibrant, emotionally healthy pastors. Identifying and selecting the right men and women, and placing them in strategically chosen locations will be key. We affirm the value of the MICN and seek to encourage keeping IC leaders connected. Of course, lay leaders in IC churches need effective, informed, empowerment. Therefore we see that education/discipleship through effective and efficient delivery methods must support the work of International Churches.

### **4. WE ARE WILLING TO PARTNER TO ACCOMPLISH THE TASK**

Addressing the challenges and opportunities ahead will require new partnerships and renewed commitments to advance the work of world evangelization. Those who gathered at the table demonstrated this We are gathered feeling called to become story-tellers of what God is doing in international churches around the world. We want to commit time, energy and resources to figuring out how we might enable and encourage international church leaders to cast and implement missional vision for their congregations so that together, the most difficult areas on the planet will be served.

### **5. WE WILL PROMOTE AND EMBRACE DIVERSITY**

Understanding that Jesus is in control, we will invite other networks into our work together. We will increase ethnic, geographic and gender expressions within the MICN. This is a relational strategy and therefore we will raise the importance of networking and prioritize using resources to that end.