

# How Can North American Mission Agencies Effectively Cooperate with and Encourage Two-Thirds World Mission Sending Agencies?<sup>1</sup>

Pablo Pérez

The Two-Thirds World missionary enterprise is an established feature of contemporary Christianity, particularly in evangelical circles. The very question posed by the title of this paper is an

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<sup>1</sup> Editor's note: This article is the first edited publication, albeit posthumous, of a paper presented by Pablo Pérez at a meeting of North American mission agency leaders in 1973. In some cases, the language has been slightly adapted and updated to reflect current usage. Specifically, gender-exclusive language has been rendered inclusive and the term "Third World," a controversial term commonly used in past decades, has been changed to "Two-Thirds World" to more accurately reflect the reality of our global situation.

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**Pablo Pérez (1929–2013) was a dedicated scholar, pastor, and translator from Mexico who lived and worked for many years in the United States. He was a founding member of the FTL and is survived by his wife and daughter.**



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indication that its presence is increasingly being felt and that it can no longer be ignored. While it has not been as spectacular or headline-making as its Western counterpart and it is leaving many an unanswered question, everything seems to point to its being the only viable alternative open to the church at the present time, and for the foreseeable future, in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. A wise use of all its potentialities is imperative if such a task is to be accomplished adequately.

All the same, the very phrasing of this title as well as the questions suggested in the background material seem to create the impression that we are confronted primarily with a methodological problem: that what is needed is for the voice of the Two-Thirds World to be heard so that we can “come up” with a new plan that will eventually provide the solution. Nevertheless, the answer is not as simple as that. The heart of the matter lies in the fact that this is basically an attitudinal problem that will not be solved merely by another list of “how to’s,” as well intentioned as they may be. As such it demands an earnest effort on the part of both “North American mission agencies,” and their corresponding Two-Thirds World associations to work toward the understanding of the various issues involved and then proceed to the formulation of an adequate plan, by common consent and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The acid test will come in the implementation of such a plan so that “In Christ—Members One of Another”<sup>2</sup> becomes more than a symbol or a motto; it becomes a visible reality.

With these preliminary observations in mind let us endeavor to:

<sup>2</sup> Editor’s note: This phrase, from Romans 12:5, reflects the theme of the conference at which Pérez originally presented this paper.