

INSERV'S MAPPING MINISTRY:

MAPPING FOR MISSIONS

Many aspects of mission work take place in geographical space. The people we want to reach with the Gospel live in a geographical place. The missionaries serve in geographical places. Churches are planted in geographical places. Therefore as Inserv serves the church through mission research a good way to present many of the results of our research is in the form of maps. Often you can see things in a map which are not obvious in a table of data or a long report. Also there may be a need to analyze geographical data and information as part of the research process.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Mapping is a new ministry at Inserv which started in the second half of 2005. Inserv has purchased the Global Ministry Mapping System (GMMS) for ArcView software and some of the staff have been trained in its use. As we go into the future Inserv plans to do much mapping on a local, national and regional scale in the service of missions. Such mapping will be both in service of our own research projects as well as offering a service to other missions organizations, churches and Christian ministries. Inserv is involved in research on the Harvest Force (Church, mission organizations and individual Christians) and Harvest Field (peoples and geographic regions) in Southern Africa as part of the MANI (Movement for African National Initiatives) network. MANI aims to mobilize the church in Africa to the fulfillment of the Great Commission in Africa. Inserv serves MANI as the regional data hub for Southern Africa. Although the mapping ministry would serve all of the current Inserv research projects the focus for the foreseeable future will be on supporting the MANI research project with mapping services of people groups, languages etc.

MAPPING FOR MISSIONS TRAINING

We are aware that to merely do mapping ourselves will have little effect in reducing the amount of work in reaching the unreached. We want to share the knowledge we have gained with others to assist them to do their own mapping and become more effective in their outreach efforts and ministry.

Inserv together with Global Mapping International (GMI) in the USA, who are the developers of the GMMS software, aim to offer training in the use of the GMMS software as well as general concepts in mapping for missions