

STATISTICIAN

Has someone ever walked up to you when you weren't expecting it and asked, "Who in the world are you?" They thought they recognized you and knew you, but they couldn't quite remember you. This question deserves an answer from every born-again child of God. When it comes to the Word of God in this world I believe many Christians live in one of two extremes. The first is extreme isolation. They don't want others to have any influence on them and they don't want to place influence on someone else. The second extreme is infiltration. This is when Christians want to act like the world, go where the world goes and do other things that the world does.

Over the years of our denominational existence we have seen various responses to the programs and requests of our conference leadership. The leadership of the E.C. Denomination has an obligation to provide services and pastors to the member churches, however this requires financial assistance through developing a budget which is challenging if the information needed to do the work is not provided. Again this year the number of churches not sending the required Annual Report has been 15.8% (19).

When we think of **WHO WE ARE**, we should refer to God's Holy Word where He tells us that our purpose is to have been saved out of the world (John 3:16). When we got saved, we trusted Christ as our personal Savior. When we got saved, things should not be as they used to be. As a denomination we are to work fervently TOGETHER to produce others for Christ. We can accomplish the correct actions if we challenge ourselves to abide by the actions required by our leaders, such as sending in Annual Reports on the correct papers.

Even though the preceding statement is true we are still in the world (John 17:15). God has us in this world for a godly purpose! **WHO ARE WE?** If we are born-again Christians, God left us in this world for a purpose, and as long as we are in the world there is not a problem; but there is a problem when the world comes inside us because we are not to be of this world!

WHO ARE WE? God sent us into the world as His representatives, His ambassadors, His witnesses to tell people that there is hope, there is peace, there is life, there is forgiveness, there is joy; and it's all found in Jesus. He gave us leaders to help us go forth and carry out the Great Commission so we can win others to a saving knowledge of Christ. However, without the proper tools the mission cannot be accomplished to complete satisfaction. The question then becomes, "Do we want to displease God?"

How aggressive are we in fulfilling the purposes of God and of our denomination? May this year be the year that 100% percent of all our churches endeavor to fulfill the obligation of an Annual Report. After all that is **WHO WE ARE!**

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