

Global Diagram 15. Mission, missions, missionaries, and the active force for mission, AD 33-2025.

The question is often asked: How many persons down the ages have committed themselves to Christ's mission to the world? or, How many missionaries have ever served? or, How many Christians, whether professionals or laypersons, have lived their lives active in mission?

Below, there are 4 parts to this diagram, constructed as follows:

1. **The cone** divides the world's total active force for mission into 8 mutually-exclusive columns labeled M-1 to M-8 and described within each. The shaded part (M-1 to M-7) represents all persons active in mission; M-8 stands for Christians inactive in mission.

2. **Above the cone** in capital letters are 8 cumulative vari-

eties of mission recognized by the church.

3. **Below the cone** are 14 statistical categories widely used by the churches to report on mission; under each is its size in AD 2000.

4. **At page bottom** is a box giving each column's totals of persons at 15 points during 21 centuries of Christian mission. The line in bold type gives the grand total of all persons ever involved in each column's variety of missions—all who have ever served as missionaries or been active in mission. (This line is not the sum of the preceding 15 rows). The final 3 lines give annual change in AD 2000. 'Losses' are due to retirement, deaths, or changes of vocation. 'Gains' represent the annual number of new personnel who join each category in

AD 2000. 'Increase' gives the overall totals, defined as gains minus losses per annum.

The whole table and the cone minidiagram present a series of snapshots of what is, however, a dynamic and rapidly changing situation. There is continual movement of personnel from one column to another. Large numbers of persons in each column move into other columns every year. For this reason, 'losses' in one column may actually be gains in the next, as for example when parish clergy working in their home countries move abroad as foreign missionaries.

