

Manila Manifesto: Section 11

who already belong to their culture and know their language. Otherwise, cross-cultural messengers of the gospel will need to go leaving behind their own culture and sacrificially identifying with the people they long to reach for Christ.

There are now about 12,000 such unreached people groups with the 1,000 larger peoples, so that the task is not impossible. Yet at present only 7% of all missionaries are engaged in this kind of outreach, while the remaining 93% are working in the already evangelized half of the world. If this imbalance is to be redressed, a strategic redeployment of personnel will be necessary.

A distressing factor that affects each of the above categories is that of inaccessibility. Many countries do not grant visas to self-styled missionaries who have no other qualification or contribution to offer. Such areas are not absolutely inaccessible, however. For prayers can pass through every curtain, door and barrier. Also Christian radio and television, audio and video cassettes, films and literature can also reach the otherwise unreachable. So-called "tentmakers" who like Paul earn their own living. They travel in the course of their profession (e.g. business people, university lecturers, technical specialists and language teachers), and use every opportunity to speak of Jesus Christ. They do not enter a country under false pretenses, for their work genuinely takes them there; it is simply that witness is an essential component of their Christian lifestyle, wherever they may happen to be.

We are deeply ashamed that nearly two millennia have passed since the death and resurrection of Jesus, and still two-thirds of the world's population have not yet acknowledged him. On the other hand, we are amazed at the mounting evidence of God's power even in the most unlikely places of the globe.

Now the year 2000 has become for many a challenging milestone. Can we commit ourselves to evangelize the world during the last decade of this millennium? There is nothing magical about the date, yet should we not do our best to reach this goal? Christ commands us to take the gospel to all peoples. The task is urgent. We are determined to obey with joy and hope.

PROPOSAL FOR A JOINT WORLD-WIDE MOVEMENT

Robert N. Myers

What follows are some excerpts from this stunning proposal that carries the subtitle: A JOINT VENTURE BY THE THREE COMMUNIONS (ORTHODOX, ROMAN CATHOLIC, AND PROTESTANT) AND PARA-CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS TO REACH THE WORLD FOR JESUS CHRIST

Our mandate should be: "Let the whole church take the whole gospel to the world world." This would be in obedience to Jesus who said, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" (John 20:21). Prior to his ascension he gave the Great Commission: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

I am proposing that the three great branches of Christendom: the Orthodox Churches (Antiochian Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox, Syrian Orthodox, Coptic Church of Egypt, Orthodox Church of Ethiopia, etc.), the Roman Catholic Churches and the Protestant Churches (denominations and independent congregations, including Messianic Jewish congregations) undertake in an official, cooperative, coordinated, non-competitive and united way a worldwide thrust in evangelism, discipleship, Christian education, and economic development.

This would involve the worldwide church--including Roman Catholic orders (Jesuits, Franciscans, Trappists, Carmelites, Augustinians, Dominicans, Holy Cross Fathers, Paulist Fathers, Redemptorists, Benedictines, Discalced, National Catholic Evangelization Association, Sisters of Mercy, etc); the World Council of Churches, and in the United States the National Council of Churches, National Association of Evan-

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gelicals (Interdenominational Foreign Missions Association and Evangelical Foreign Missions Association), U.S. Center for World Mission, Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, and para-church organizations like the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Salvation Army, National Religious Broadcasters, Campus Crusade for Christ, Navigators, Young Life, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship, church-related and Christian colleges, universities, Bible schools, seminaries, radio and television ministries, etc.

...We can see that the church is thinking in terms of winning the world, but I feel very strongly that unless the three branches of Christendom jointly and officially agree to work together in a cooperative way, along with the other para-church groups, the task cannot be accomplished. Only on this basis can we ever think of reaching the world for Christ. Let us go beyond the year 2000 and target the year 2050 A.D. if we are serious about going in this direction.

The program would include the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ as the one and only Lord and Savior of mankind, and would also include housing, food distribution, agricultural assistance, and economic development. All three branches of Christendom, plus other para-church groups, have schools, hospitals, agricultural and economic projects, which would be strengthened through this effort. We must do this now when we have the resources and the world economy is strong, because later many be too late! Relations between the superpowers are improving, making it easier for the gospel to be propagated. It is something like the *Pax Romana* (Roman Peace) at the time of Christ.

We would help to strengthen the churches in the developing world to evangelize and educate their own people. This would be done with financial help, literature, and technology, as well as personnel. The best in Christian literature, films, and educational materials would be produced and used.

Evangelism would be followed with discipleship, the formal instruction of converts. Children, youth, and adults would be referred to the churches of their choice for instruction in the

requirements of the faith on a continuing basis (see the section on Christian Education, page 17). The commitment that a person makes may not be lasting unless it is followed with education.

The numerical, technological, financial and spiritual resources of the church are in its lay people and have yet to be tapped. The laity must be challenged to give two years in specific Christian service and witness. A program would be set up to recruit lay volunteers from the whole church, train, and finance them, and place them in the life of the church worldwide where their skills can be used (see the section on Lack of Urgency, page 27).

We must meet in an atmosphere of love with the national and international leaders of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Shintoism, and other non-Christian religions in an attempt to explain the unique claim of Christianity that Jesus is the incarnation of God himself and that he is the foundation of everything that exists, as well as to listen to their reasons for believing as they do.

...One goal would be to raise \$75 billion between now and the year 2050. Christians all over the world could be solicited for such a Catholic and universal undertaking by the church. The chances of raising large amounts of funds will be far greater, whether it comes from corporations, governments, individuals, church bodies, foundations, etc., if these potential donors know that the church is united in this common task. We would have to plan for half of our budget of \$75 billion going to economic development including schools, clinics, agriculture, and social services.

If Americans can afford a defense budget of \$300 billion, and in addition spend millions on tobacco, liquor, cars, dog food, cosmetics, junk food, etc., then sharing in raising \$75 billion in the next sixty years should not be very difficult.

Coordinating our efforts would eliminate duplication thereby saving millions of dollars in unnecessary cost. Denominations, para-church organizations, and individuals often feel threatened in their respective ministries as to what others are

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doing, and working together would remove this sense of competition.

Implementation of this proposal would greatly accelerate world evangelization and economic development and could result in one of the greatest missionary movements in the last two thousand years. Personally I believe that unless this approach is taken, there is little hope of fulfilling the Great Commission. Nothing but good could come from such an effort!

GOO'S WORD: HOPE FOR ALL

United Bible Societies

The following document was ratified at a meeting of the United Bible Societies Council in Budapest, Hungary, September 14-21, 1988.

We the undersigned, 205 representatives of member Societies in the worldwide Fellowship of the United Bible Societies, have come together from 105 countries, with representatives of the Churches and of other Scripture distributing organisations, with UBS staff, for our Council meeting in Budapest, Hungary. We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, for bringing us to this place. We have sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our deliberations, and we look to the future with expectant and confident hope that God will continue to bless this work of spreading His Word.

At our last meeting in Chiangmai, Thailand, in 1980, we adopted a comprehensive working plan with the aim of making God's Word open for all. We thank God that much has been achieved in the implementation of this plan. Today we renew our commitment to the principles of the Chiangmai programme, and we go further.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO YOUNG PEOPLE

On this day, September 21st 1988, approximately 270,000 children will be born into the world. During this year, 99 million new people will join us on this crowding planet. By the year 2000, around 66 million of them will have survived to the

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