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EDITORIAL

Speaking up for mass evangelism

*Mass evangelism or church-based/personal evangelism—
evangelicals continue the debate.*

“It’s sheer waste of money.” “Bad stewardship.” “All hype and hysteria. How many really got saved?” And so the snide remarks keep piling against organisers of mass evangelistic rallies by proponents of church-based and personal evangelism. Mass rallies are also impersonal, incur high costs and lack effective follow-up and discipling, the same proponents argue.

True, mass evangelism has its weaknesses but still, it holds a significant place in the urban context for the following reasons. Firstly, in a mass rally, people can preserve their privacy. In a big stadium, they can come, sit in and walk away without much notice. The privacy and anonymity of the person is maintained. This is highly important for those whose interest in our faith is a sensitive issue.

Secondly, mass evangelistic rallies provide Christians with the opportunity of bringing their friends to public meetings specially geared towards outsiders rather than to Christian worship services tailored for insiders.

Mass evangelism unites churches in a way that nothing else does. It bonds churches and often, in the process of working together, the churches are revived. One lasting result of mass evangelism is the co-operation between local churches as evidenced in our past efforts in organising Emmanuel Celebration, Breakthrough 2000 and Celebration 2000.

At a mass evangelistic rally, the pastors and church leaders involved normally spend months together planning, preparing and executing their plans. As they share and pray together, they will be edified, encouraged and energised to attempt



greater exploits for the Lord. The outcome of mass evangelism is often that the churches “get moving” and this momentum needs to be maintained after the evangelistic rally is over to sustain lasting results.

Mass evangelism is useful in bringing in people from other non-Christian ethnic backgrounds. People from other religious traditions can come in without being noticed and hear the gospel for the first time. And they tend to prefer to come and listen to well-known mass evangelists such as Carlos Annacondia or Billy Graham than go to church to hear the gospel preached by the locals.

So, mass evangelism should not be written off though it has its weaknesses. Instead, what we need to do is develop newer forms of mass evangelism which takes seriously the reality of the universal youth culture.

Our youths are used to mass experience

nowadays. Mass music and worship experiences must be used more in the cities as a respected vehicle of the gospel.

The work of preaching the gospel should be exciting and creative. May God enable us to discover the creativity of the Holy Spirit for we have nothing to be ashamed of the gospel. It is the power of God for salvation. It is the power of God for the unreached. It is the power of God for the powerless in our community. It is the power of God to transform lives in our city. Let us embrace Paul’s attitude expressed in 1 Corinthians 9 towards the preaching of the gospel, “...to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some”.



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HARVESTING the unreached

By Rev. Datuk Dr Prince Guneratnam,
NECF Malaysia Chairman

The Christian understanding today of the harvest refers to those without Christ and need to be saved. In order to reach sinners and bring them to the saving knowledge of Christ, we need to take certain measures. The story in Mark chapter five gives us a clear illustration of what sin does and what we need to do to help the lost find new life.

“When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him: ‘My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live’. So Jesus went with him. When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, ‘Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep’. But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, ‘Talitha, Koum!’ (which means, ‘Little girl, I say to you, get up!’). Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. He gave strict

orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat”. (Mark 5:21–24, 38–43)

I would like to take note of Jairus and what he did to illustrate the steps we need to take as soul winners or harvesters of the unreached.



Faith in God Jairus had the faith to believe that Jesus could still heal his daughter. He came

to Jesus and said: “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” (Mk 5: 23) Jairus recognised the power Jesus had and his faith in Jesus compelled him to plead for his daughter’s healing. His request was an expression of a positive faith in God. As a result, his daughter was raised from the dead.

Similarly, we should have the faith to believe that God can and will save and transform our lives. This conviction will certainly encourage us to fervently share the Gospel with non-believers whenever opportunities come our way. Faith in God will release His indwelling power to work within us and through us to bring in a good harvest.

Faith in God will do miracles—the miracle of salvation. This is the key to an abundant harvest. “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.” (Eph. 3:20)

Love for the lost Our non-believing family members, neighbours and friends stand at the point of death—eternal separation from God. Are you concerned enough to want to reach out to them? Jairus told Jesus: “My little daughter is dying.” (Mk 5:23) His love for her drove him to seek Jesus out for healing. Like Jairus, our love for the unsaved should lead us to positive action that will bring salvation to the lost.

Faith in God must be accompanied by love for those lost in sin and are destined for eternal condemnation. “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.” (Jn 3:18) John goes on to say that “whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains in

Protect your pastor

Don't let him stand alone. Sign up for Pastors' Prayer Shield.

Pastors have great prayer needs. Ironically, they are often neglected in prayer by their own congregation members. And yet, it is crucial to bathe them in prayer so that they can continue to lead their flocks tirelessly and passionately, according to the direction God has set for them.

Enters *Pastors' Prayer Shield*, a pray-for-your-pastor initiative that seeks to mobilise individual church members to pray for their pastors on a regular basis. Through constant, committed prayer, the pastor-member relationship will be cemented, thus leading to harmony and unity in vision for the church. Ultimately, with strong local churches, the glory of Christ will be manifested in the nation.

The prayer campaign is initiated by the NECF Malaysia Prayer Commission in line with NECF's theme, *Transforming The Nation Through The Local Churches*. The Commission aims to establish within every church in Malaysia a group of members praying for their pastors throughout the week. Members who sign up for the programme commit to pray on a day of the week (for example every Tuesday) following a schedule of prayer items for each day of the week. The Commission hopes to raise 100,000 praying partners for Malaysian pastors.

The campaign will be officially launched in several regions throughout Malaysia. Pastors, their church leaders and prayer leaders will be invited to the launch where they will be introduced to the programme and learn how to set up prayer shields in their local churches. A copy of John Maxwell's training VCD, *The Pastor's MVP (Most Valuable Player)*, and his book, *Partners in Prayer*, will be available for sale at RM20 per set.

The first launch will be held for the Central region at Kuantan on February 11 followed by the Klang Valley region (held at Calvary Church, KL) on February 26 and the Northern region (held in Kota Baru) on March 16.

Churches, which are interested in participating in the campaign, may contact the NECF Prayer Commission for assistance and training.

For more information, please contact Pr Ann Low at 013-3649239 or the NECF office 03-7727 8227 (tel.).



Harvesting the unreached: from page 2

him." (Jn 3:36) What an awesome responsibility and challenge we have! Our motivation must be love. Paul said: "The love of God compels us." (2 Cor. 5:14)

Right motive The Bible says, "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (1 Cor. 10:31) We should not share Christ for personal gain. Sometimes, we think that when a wealthy or talented person gets saved, he will be a great blessing to the church. So, we subconsciously target our evangelism at people whom we think will be of benefit to us or the church. This is absolutely wrong.

Our motive must always be to glorify God. James 4:3 says: "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get

on your pleasures." In soul-winning we must always remember that heaven and hell are real. People will be eternally lost without Jesus. We should win souls at all cost with the right motive. However, right motives alone will not win souls. We must also match it with diligent effort.

Effort Most Christians think praying is enough to bring people to Christ. But, it is not. Prayer must couple with effort to reach the lost. To ensure a good harvest, we should be diligent in our efforts and this is hard work. It is one thing to pray for the salvation of others and yet another to witness to them. We should seize every opportunity to witness, testify and urge others to turn to Jesus. If this demands a sacrifice of time and pleasure and causes

us inconvenience, we should put self aside and gladly oblige the other person. What matters most is the life and destiny of the person.

Jairus was one of the synagogue rulers but he humbled himself and made every effort to seek Jesus' help. Jesus was despised and mistreated by the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Scribes. Yet, Jairus made the effort to come to Jesus and entreated Him earnestly to heal his daughter.

Therefore, if we want to win souls, we must put our faith in God who wants all men to be saved. We must have love for the lost, have the right motives in witnessing and make every effort to do so. Then Jesus, the Lord of the harvest, will empower us with His Spirit to bring in a plentiful harvest

Celebration 2000

A feast of music and songs



A sombre moment for the crowd that responded to the Word.

Professional violinist Yeoh Pei Sze and Malaysia's top lead guitarist Jordan.

How high can you go? Very high, in the case of soprano Cecilia Yip.

After many days of continuous torrents, the sky was mysteriously clear and brilliant in Petaling Jaya throughout the two days of the Celebration 2000 evangelistic event. Puzzled by the sudden withdrawal of rain from the skies, many speculated that the rainy spell had passed and sunny days were back again. But then, the rains fell again. And right on the day after the event! Surely, the Lord of the skies had heard the saints' pleas for good weather for those two important days so that many would be encouraged to go to Juara Stadium to hear the Gospel from Australian evangelist Dr Bill Newman.

vocal performances by two ladies, soprano Cecilia Yip and contemporary Christian singer Vani Francis.

Cecilia, a third runner-up at the 7th International Opera competition in Italy in 1994, got the audience hanging on to the edge of their seats with her glass-breaking rendition of 'Amazing Grace'. Her vocal prowess was truly amazing. Vani also sang forcefully and easily endeared herself with the crowd as she shared freely before each of her two songs.

Each night, before the meeting proper began, the crowd was treated to an instrumental feast presented by a combined music team from First Baptist Church and Emmanuel Evangelical Free Church. The team was graced by the presence of Jordan, reputed to be the best lead guitarist in the country, and Yeoh Pei Sze, a professional violinist who also lectures music at a local university. Undoubtedly, it was the graceful violinist who stole the hearts of all with her heart-stirring performance of songs such as 'Give thanks', 'It only takes a spark,' and 'What a friend we have in Jesus.'

Following the instrumental and solo presentations, Australian contemporary Christian singer Darin Browne led in a time of joyous worship and also sang a few of his compositions. Darin was careful not to 'wear out' the crowd with a long worship session while, at the same time, ensuring that it met its purpose of preparing hearts for the message.

By the time Dr Newman took to the stage, the crowd was ready to listen. Dr Newman proved to be a master communicator as he spoke passionately about the brevity and fragility of life in simple, clear terms that touched the hearts of many. At the altar call later, many went forward, some to receive the gift of salvation and others to re-commit their lives to God. To the soft strains of the song 'The power of Your love' Dr Newman then led the pensive respondents in the prayer of faith.

As the counsellors ministered to the respondents, the remaining crowd trickled out of the hall into the clear, dry night.

(Celebration 2000, held on November 25 and 26, was organised by NECF Malaysia in partnership with local churches.)



A family receives Christ at the altar call.

So, thanks to the Lord's intervention, some 2800 people turned up during the two nights to hear the message of salvation and enjoy the musical feast of inspiring instrumental presentation, joyous but contemplative worship, and powerful solo

Celebration 2000

Ex-temple dancer finds Christ

Her powerful voice belies her slender, small frame that is the result of her early years in disciplined dance training. While most girls at the age of five years were occupied with dolls and *masak-masak* games, Vani Francis was busy bending and twisting her tiny body, limbs and fingers to the commands of a temple dance trainer.

For many long years, she obediently submit to her instructor's demanding routines in her preparation to become a temple dancer. Apart from the grinding dance training, she also took on singing lessons, focussing on classical vocals as her major.

As a little girl, Vani never questioned her family's choice for her career as a temple dancer. After all, hers is a faithful family of priests from generations before. And she, with her fine looks and talents, was expected to continue the priestly line, like her mother who was (and still is) a temple dance instructor. But with gained confidence in her singing talent, she decided to venture out into professional singing to widen her scope as an artiste.

So, at the age of 15 years, she started out on a hectic life of shuttling between pubs and functions throughout the country. For several years, she reveled in this life of freedom and recognition but the excitement soon faded and the late nights became a dark dread. Worn out by the time she reached 21 years, Vani turned to witchcraft, hoping to find peace and meaning in her life. Trained under a witch, she specialised in necromancy—the art of foretelling the future by conversing with the dead.

But that did not bring her the fulfillment that she was seeking. Soon after her involvement with the black art, she came down with a disease that

inflicted intense pain to her body. The few doctors she consulted found no reason for her pains. Finally, one night, Vani called out the name of Jesus, promising to follow Him if He would take away her pains. She



of the event's organiser, NECF Malaysia.

Since she went into full-time ministry seven years ago, she has recorded three albums. These days, Vani is shifting her ministry focus to preaching and teaching on subjects such as New Age, Eastern religions and spiritual warfare/deliverance. She observed that many Malaysian Christians are still ignorant of the occultic nature of some forms of dance. For example, ballet and jazz are cultural dances but some dance forms are really religious worship dances.

Vani shared the experience of being called by a pastor of a local church who was concerned that some of his members were sending their children to learn temple dance. The pastor organised a meeting and invited Vani to share her experience as a former temple dancer. "At the end of the meeting, many went up to confess and repent. It was an eye-opening experience for them," she said.

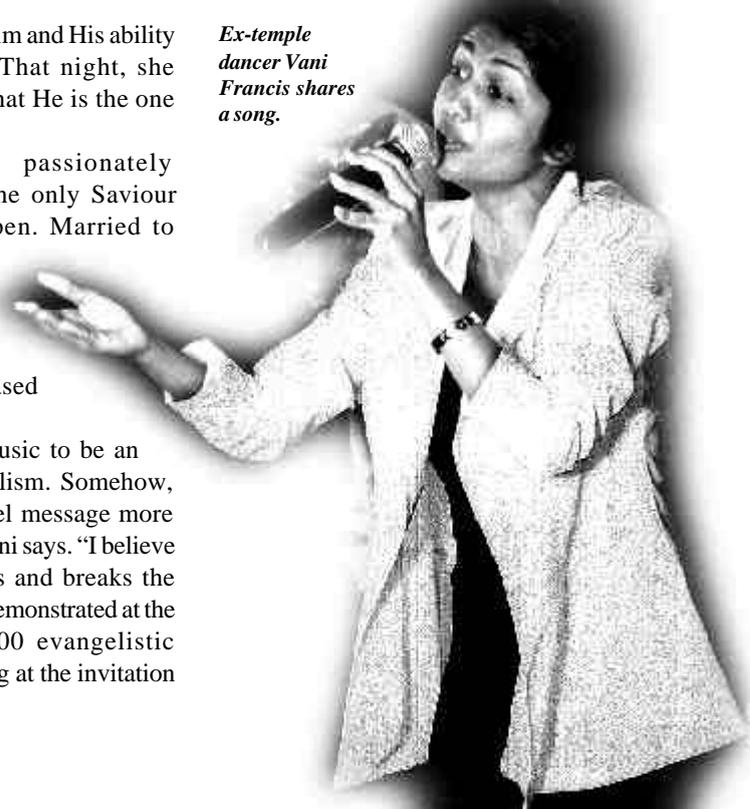
"Be careful about the looks of certain dances. The costumes used are beautiful and the movements look so graceful. But don't be deceived," she warned. ■

had earlier heard about Him and His ability to heal the incurable. That night, she discovered the truth—that He is the one true and living God.

Today, Vani is passionately proclaiming Jesus as the only Saviour wherever the doors open. Married to Marshall Francis, a former Malaysian guitarist in the local secular entertainment circuit, they are now based in Louisiana, USA.

They have found music to be an effective tool of evangelism. Somehow, people receive the gospel message more readily through songs, Vani says. "I believe music softens the hearts and breaks the walls." This was clearly demonstrated at the recent Celebration 2000 evangelistic meetings where Vani sang at the invitation

Ex-temple dancer Vani Francis shares a song.



Celebration 2000

Daring Darin

IS it essential to have a spectacular singing voice to be an effective worship leader? "NO," Darin Browne asserted. What is necessary is a 'spectacular heart'—a worshipful heart and one that deeply desires to lead others to worship Him, said the Australian Christian contemporary singer and songwriter. "You (the worship leader) don't even need to be able to sing, but it sure is a bonus," he quipped.

Driven by the conviction that 'He must become greater and I must become less' (John 3:30), Darin refrains from excessive talking and even praying when leading a worship session. "... let people just worship. I will pray at times, but don't want to do anything that draws people to myself, but rather have them look to the Lord," he said.

Truly, Darin does not possess a spellbinding voice, which has turned out to be a blessing as worshippers are therefore not distracted. But he does have a special gift of leading people to worship God and focus on Him. This gift was well displayed at the recent Celebration 2000 evangelistic meetings where he led the worship sessions before the speaker, evangelist Bill Newman, took over.

As Music Director of Bill Newman International, Australia, Darin accompanies Dr Newman on his speaking engagement worldwide and is responsible for the music aspect of the meetings. This involves co-ordinating the songs for and leading the praise and worship session before Dr Newman speaks. Darin shares further his thoughts on worship leading and the role of music in evangelism.

On the role music plays in evangelistic rallies and its effects on the crowd...

Music is an essential part in evangelistic outreaches, especially big ones. Music spearheads the Gospel...it bypasses the mind and goes straight to the heart. The aim is always to prepare the hearts of the listeners, and even if we look like we are just having fun, we really have a central and serious goal to the music. I

am well aware of the power of music in setting an atmosphere.

Music is most powerful when it supports the Word of God. It is not an end in itself. If 'hearing comes from the Word of God', then this must be central to the meetings, and the direction we are to head. The goal is not a great worship time or CD sales or a stack of autographs late in the night. The goal is to win souls and that is where we head.



Darin playing a song with Malaysia's top lead guitarist Jordan.

On worship-leading and working with local musicians...

Usually, I use well-known songs in worship, because we are there to use worship to set an atmosphere for the Spirit to work in people's hearts, not teach 50 new songs! I love ministering with local

bands and singers, although it is often hard work. At the Celebration 2000 meetings, we combined two bands into one, and I am sure that each person has grown in the Lord and in his musical ability.

I am a fairly free-flowing type of guy, extremely flexible in contrast with some of the less flexible band members who want everything written down, etc. Part of the fun is learning to follow a leader who is sitting on the edge of his seat waiting to see where the Holy Spirit leads him. I love to worship with freedom and, while the songs were chosen before time, song orders and repeats of choruses, etc. are made up as we go along.

On writing songs even though he does not read music scores...

Yes, I am musically illiterate and have had no lessons. I am essentially self-taught, or rather, Spirit-taught. I read guitar chords and can play guitar, piano, bass, lead, drums etc., but I have no clue when it comes to dots on a page. The advantage is that this does not restrict me. I have no choice but to play by ear, so I probably know more about how songs are structured and how they sound because that is how I learned music. All the glory should go to the Lord for any of my songs. He is the inspiration and substance of all the songs. I wrote seven songs in five days before the last album, and that is GOD!

A few years ago I had the opportunity to do guitar lessons with a friend. At the same time a Bible College opened in my area. I could not do both. I prayed, and chose Bible College, and now am an itinerant pastor. You see, I want to be a better guitarist, but I'd rather be a better servant of the Lord. Depends on where your treasure is, and what you feel the Lord is calling you to do.

Darin's songs (with chords) are available on his website www.darinb.com ■



I S S U E 5 5

Women to Women



Our Faithful God

By Shereen Wong

Destination - Nairobi

Nairobi, Kenya. Yes, that was our destination. Fellow church member, Tay Poh Gaik, and I went on a missions trip to Nairobi in November 2000. The trip was spiritually uplifting and reminded us over and over again of God's faithfulness to His children. In the 12 days that we were there, the Lord enabled us to successfully conduct a five-day Domestic Skills Workshop for 17 street children and three teachers, teach in two adult Bible Study classes and share in a Leadership Seminar for lay leaders. We also visited a home for abandoned HIV positive children and the dormitories built by Calvary Church, Kuala Lumpur, for the street children. Poh Gaik and I are fully aware that we were never alone in what the Lord encouraged us to set out to accomplish and we are grateful for all the support Calvary Church has given us.

God honoured our efforts. Even before the Workshop was completed, a businesswoman approached Lucy Njenga, the supervisor, to make arrangements to hire one of the trained girls as soon as possible. She had sat in on the first day of training and was impressed.

God also used the Workshop to heal girls who had been hurt from sexual abuse. In African culture, sex education and awareness is a taboo subject. Lucy Njenga, supervisor of the programme for street children, wanted us to deal with the topic and to encourage the children to speak up so that we could help them. The children were encouraged to write down the questions they were too embarrassed to ask. The slips of paper came in so fast I had a tough time answering all the questions. After that we prayed with the children and assured them that when Jesus cleanses, everything is washed away and they are brand new in Jesus. It was touching to see the change in their countenance. We give all glory to God.

God is True to His Word Eight years ago, Calvary Church, Kuala Lumpur, sent Tony and Christine Phang as missionaries to Nairobi, Kenya. They "sowed" in the Harvester's Institute of Ministries (HIM) - a Bible School conducting classes at night for lay people. Today, many of its graduates are pastoring churches.

Lucy Njenga was one of their pioneer students. She is now an ordained pastor and a recognised and licensed social worker for her community. Her husband was an unbeliever when she was in HIM. He is now a believer and Lucy's partner in God's work. Lucy oversees the feeding of 126 street children, the



Shereen Wong & Lucy Njenga

schooling of 420 orphans and underprivileged children, and looks after the 66 orphans staying in dormitories.

Alex Mwangi and his siblings are also HIM graduates. His whole family serves the Lord full-time. Two of his siblings are leaders in the River of God Church, pastored by Tony Phang. The church started in November 1999. In nine months, the attendance grew from 20 to 100. The children's Sunday School started with the two Phang children. The attendance now exceeds 78. Through the children at least one whole family has come to believe in the Lord

"Do not be deceived. God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:7-9).

God is Real The God who spoke to Moses out of the burning bush is real. His Name is "I AM", not "I am supposed to be" or "some people think that I am."

One Monday morning, a ten-year-old boy who was attending the Sunday School died of HIV and its complications. Before the body was sent for cremation, the boy's eight-year-old brother wrote down the Scripture verse they had both been memorising for Sunday and placed it in his hand. It was the most precious

thing he wanted his brother to take to Heaven. It touched our hearts to see how real God is to these children.

God is Unchanging God never changes - "Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God" (Psalm 90:2).

On an earlier trip to Nairobi in 1997, the Lord protected us during the pre-election riots. It was only on our last day there that we read of the blood baths. On this trip, the university students caused a riot on the Wednesday that we decided to stay back in church for a Cell Group meeting. Apparently the police and army were called in and people were warned to stay away from certain roads. When we returned to Christine's home after the meeting, we noticed that the place was quieter than normal but it was only after the Workshop had been completed on Friday night that we heard what had happened on Wednesday. "For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11).

My life has been impacted by this trip. The street children are a vivid reminder of how far God has brought me. Many years ago, I too,—a child in an underprivileged family—was facing a bleak future. God sent someone to invest in my life and to teach me to put my trust in Jesus. I am where I am today because God is real, unchangeable and faithful.

Before the end of the Workshop, I prayed and asked the Lord to lead me to give someone a specific challenge. During our simple graduation exercise, I turned to a girl, looked her in the eye and asked, "Would you like to be able to do what I am

Missionaries Tony & Christine Phang with their daughters, Kathryn and Vicky.



Shereen Wong & Tay Poh Gaik with the graduates of the Domestic Skills Workshop

doing?" Jesus can help you." Wide-eyed, Eunice Wangeci nodded a "yes." "I will pray for you," I said. I took off my name tag, gave it to her and said, "When you see this, remember what you want God to do for you." Later on, I found out that she was a Dormitory Monitor. God had led me to the right person.

Jesus is coming back. Even if He tarries, I will be going to meet Him eventually. My desire is to be where He wants me to be, to do what He wants me to do because this is what will count for eternity.

Shereen Wong is a member of the NECF Commission on Women's Concerns. She worships at Calvary Church, Kuala Lumpur, where she serves as the Coordinator of the Women's Ministries.

A participant receives a certificate of achievement from Rev Tony Phang



Gender-Genderlect: "Same Words, Different Worlds"

by Dr Lee Bee Teik

When we look at a man or woman, we are not just seeing that person. We are also looking at what makes that person what he or she is now. Hence, if we can see others, young or old, from this wider point of view, we may be more patient and more appreciative; we may find it easier to forgive them when they wrong us and love them for the Lord.

One of the influences on a person's development is the gender of that particular person. In many loving couples' pilgrimage through marriage, misunderstanding of one another's language usage, due to gender differences, has caused more problems than they have bargained for. The same words spoken may be interpreted differently by men and by women. Sometimes they appear to have two different languages! Therefore the concept of genderlect was coined by a psychologist, Deborah Tannen⁽¹⁾.

Here are some differences in gender related conversational styles:

- i. In public (on stage)—Men talk more, using report talk such as comments on politics, business or the weather.
Women talk less, using rapport talk to build personal relationships (not usually done in public).
In private (off stage)—Men remain silent; presumably, there is nothing left to report.



Women talk more because the place to connect for intimacy is behind the scenes.

Therefore, for example, at the end of the day, the following conversation may ensue:

Woman: "You don't listen! You don't care!"

Man : "I'm relaxing because there is nothing to report... but I do care...so don't accuse me!"

If this type of verbal communication takes place just once in a while, it may be tolerable. If it happens frequently, irritation may accumulate to cause more serious consequences.

- ii. *Men* are focused on what they want to do. *Women* are focused on the need for sympathy or to give sympathy.
An example:
Wife : "I'm not feeling well..." (looking for sympathy after talking to toddlers the whole day long...)
Husband : "I'll take you to the doctor." (action, man, action!)
- iii. Some men can be like women and some women can be like men in gender related temperament roles. However, physical sexual roles cannot be interchanged. This is clearly forbidden in Scriptures (Romans 1:18-32).
- iv. It might help us further understand the common differences between men and women as we consider the following information given in a local newspaper some time ago.
 - a. *A Woman*
She can multitrack i.e she can do more than one thing at once...two or three or more tasks e.g. she may cook dinner, watch a toddler and answer another child's questions simultaneously ...without getting too irritable.
A Man
When a man turns on the TV he goes deaf! He usually can't listen carefully and talk gently/right at the same time, even during commercials.
 - b. *A Woman*
As a baby, she has better verbal skills than the man. She

verbalises more to fellow humans or dolls for relationship formation.

A Man

He makes more noises to objects e.g. "Bang, Bang at a toy car..."

c. *A woman*

She communicates more and more effectively. She is able to link the feeling recognition centre and the speaking centre instantly and says what and how she feels. Actually, she sees speech AND talking until she covers all the things that could be bothering her. She discovers, finally, what it is that is making her feel bad...this gives her man migraines! Why? This is because as she talks, he is busy trying to solve the problems she is stacking in front of him. Generally, therefore, a woman speaks more words than a man a day.

A Man

When asked about feelings, apparently a man has to search for and find the feeling centre in his brain, identify the feeling, then track back to the word centre to describe the feelings and then speak. By that time, he has forgotten what the feeling is and so he has to track back to look for it. Thinking and speaking about feelings simultaneously is difficult for a man, if not a torture. This means that a man is often unaware of how he feels and he needs to sit quietly to work it out and then put it in words. (This does not mean, however, that the neutral pathways cannot be further opened through constant practice or when miraculously touched by the Lord Himself.)

d. *A Woman*

A woman uses words to connect, to share and to nurture relationships. This is the most important thing in a woman's life. She is hungry for details when she asks, "How are you?" This is her chance to share her feelings and her love for you.

A Man

A man is desperate to be left alone!

(Let us) learn from the God who has spoken to us and who desires that we speak to Him.

John 3:16-17—Jesus does not condemn.

John 2:24-25—Jesus knows everything, including the worst about us.

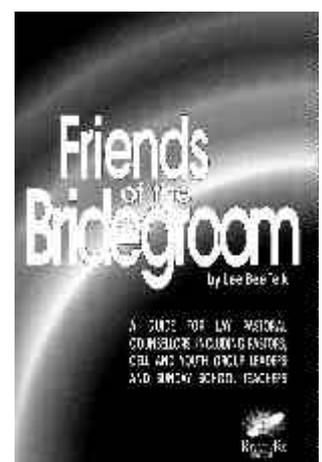
Rev. 3:20—Jesus still desires to talk to us.

As you open up your private communication to the God of language and speech, you will improve your verbal communication with your spouse, children, parents, friends and even those you disagree with.

⁽¹⁾ "You Just Don't Understand—Women & Men in Conversation" Deborah Tannen, William Morrow and Co. Inc. 1990

This is an extract from the book *Friends of the Bridegroom* by Lee Bee Teik. Available at SUFES and Glad Sounds bookrooms.

Email: reconcilor@reconre.com



Thosai, Anyone?

& other observations

by Goh Poh Gaik

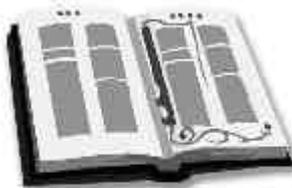
My favourite breakfast is a tall glass of fresh apple juice. Not from a carton, not diluted, not sweetened. Just juice straight from the juicer, a glassful of apple goodness. But on days when I veer from this pectin-packed healthy breakfast drink, my next favourite breakfast has to be the *thosai* served with dhal curry. When it comes to ordering the *thosai*, the selection would unnerve a novice. Here's the variety.

Would you like a *thosai special*, a *masala thosai*, a *special masala thosai* or a *paper thosai*? Or perhaps you'd prefer a *crowns thosai* or a *rawa thosai*? Or how about a *thosai sardin* or if you're wanting some fruit thrown in, you might want a *thosai banana*?

My choice? Just the *thosai biasa*, please. The real stuff. Original and solid. That's the way I like it.

Just the other day, I went into a couple of bookrooms in town on a mission to buy a Bible for my brother who does not yet know Jesus as his Saviour. The selection of Bibles available totally wipes out the challenge of the *thosai* varieties. Consider this list. You want to buy a Bible? Which one would you like?

- The Life Application Bible?*
- The Fruit of the Spirit Bible?*
- The Life and Times Historical Reference Bible?*
- The Cornerstone Personal Reference Bible?*
- The Marriage Devotional Bible?*
- The Women of Destiny Bible?*
- The Knowing Jesus Bible?*
- The Serendipity Bible?*
- The Rainbow Study Bible?*
- The Light Up Bible?*
- The Spirit-Filled Life Bible?*
- The Reflecting God Study Bible?*



- The Men's Bible?*
- The Women's Study Bible?*
- The Open Bible?*
- The New Open Bible?*
- The Pastor's Bible?*
- The NIV Worship Bible?*
- The Teen Bible?*
- The Extreme Teen Bible?*
- The Smallest Bible?*

Whew! Talk about being spoilt for choice. Actually, I

was so baffled I took down this list and left without making a purchase. A number of questions raced through my mind. What's a Spirit-filled Bible anyway? And the fruit of the Spirit Bible? What we all need is a copy of the Word of God. The real stuff. A trustworthy translation. And as we read with open hearts, the Spirit of God will instruct us in the ways of the Lord. I'll just go back in and purchase a copy of the Word of God. ■

"You blink an eye and the boy is gone." I recall this line from a Tom Sawyer film I watched years ago. And so it is. Before you know it, the boy tugging at your clothes, inviting you to catch ball with him is standing taller than you. He won't need you to cross the road to accompany him to buy chewing gum, he won't want to snuggle close while you read him the same story for the ninth time.

To all mothers and aunties, take time to enjoy the children while they are small. Bonding that takes place in the early years prepares the ground for happy and fulfilling friendships in the later years of young adulthood.

Take time during this holiday season for family fun and togetherness. Last Chinese New Year, while back home in Penang, I played boisterous games of *Taboo* and *Outburst!* with my young adult nephews, nieces-in-law and niece. We whooped and shouted; many times we collapsed in laughter. I remember the days when they were children and we played *Ludo* and *Flying Hats* and *Catch the Mouse*. Now they are all grown up and taking decisive strides as disciples of the Lord Jesus. Their friendship has enriched my life.

Have a blessed New Year. May it be a year of Jesus-directed decisions! ■

WOMEN to WOMEN

Advisor/Co-ordinator: Goh Poh Gaik

Women to women, a project of the NECF Commission on Women's Concerns, is a bimonthly supplement to Berita NECF.

It has the broad objectives of:

- educating and raising awareness of the social and theological issues affecting women
- stimulating efforts towards networking and dialogue amongst women
- encouraging one another in the use of our gifts and talents for the Lord's Kingdom

Your letters and contributions (feedback, suggestions, ideas, articles, poems, cartoons, etc.) are most welcome.

Send to:

The Co-ordinator, **WOMEN TO WOMEN**

NECF, 32, Jalan SS2/103, 47300 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

The views expressed in this supplement do not necessarily reflect those of the Commission or the NECF.



Celebration 2000

The preaching needed in evangelism

“The life of a church and her hope for the future lie in her reproductive power, which is evangelism. The local congregation must evangelise or die.”

With that startling remark, Dr Bill Newman kicked off his session, *The Preaching Needed in Evangelism*, at the recent School of Evangelism organised in conjunction with the Celebration 2000 evangelistic event. More than 80 people from various churches attended the two-day training sessions on November 23 and 24 at the NECF Malaysia office.

During his session, Dr Newman examined the preaching needed in today's evangelism. Firstly and most importantly, evangelistic preaching must be biblical in content. While it is good to use humour, statistics and illustrations, the message will not be uniquely Christian if it was not premised on the Bible. Since it is the Word that convicts, “we can never make a sound invitation until there is proper proclamation and that proclamation must be steeped in the Word of God,” he said.

The evangelist must preach positively, expecting to get results. Never doubt the power of God's Word and the Holy Spirit's working in the hearers; never be hesitant and never apologise, Dr Newman urged. No

one is interested in preaching that beats round the bush, so an effective evangelistic message must be straightforward, simple and clear.

Repetition is another key ingredient to good evangelistic preaching. To drive home the message, it is necessary to repeat the same truths in different ways. Repetition helps the hearer to remember the message and ‘chew on it’ long after the meeting ends.

Evangelistic preaching must also be sympathetic in that the evangelist understands the heart of his hearer. For that, the evangelist must “walk with men and women and understand how they think and feel.” While the message must be logical and clear to the mind, it will only win the hearer if it reaches the heart.

Illustrations grip the imagination, clarify the obscure and help to regain attention to the main point of the message. But be careful not to let them become the main point of the message.

Evangelistic preaching must be authoritative. Our Lord Jesus preached as one with authority and not as the scribes. As you preach with authority, empowered by the Holy Spirit, people will hear ‘another voice’.

The evangelistic message must be brief and the preacher must not, in his enthusiasm, go on eternally. Make a good beginning, a good ending and keep them close together.

Finally, since the ultimate aim of the evangelistic sermon is to convict the hearer of sin and lead him to an immediate decision for Christ, it should be presented at life as it is being lived now. It has no tomorrow in it. Its accepted time is now.

Dr Newman, a well-known evangelist, author and motivational speaker, is currently heard on more than 50 radio stations across Australia. ■

*A master communicator—
Dr Bill Newman.*



A R E C O R D O F T H A N K S ...

NECF Malaysia wishes to record its appreciation for the partnership of churches and Christians as represented by the CELEBRATION 2000 Planning Committee in helping to organise this evangelistic event. They are as follows:

- Rev. Wong Kim Kong, NECF Malaysia Secretary-General (*Chief Coordinator*)
- Elder Kong Yeng Phooi, PJ Gospel Hall/NECF Malaysia Honorary Secretary (*Counselling*)
- Elder Timothy Phua, The Word Centre (*Finance*)
- Rev. Tony Lim, Emmanuel EFC (*Worship*)
- Rev. Ronnie Teoh, Balai Baptist Kalvari (*Stage*)
- Rev. Isaac Yim, First Baptist Church (*Member-at-large*)

- Rev. Elisha Satvinder, New Covenant Community (*Hospitality and Transport*)
- Pr Chua Soong Keng, First Baptist Church (*Worship*)
- Pr Rudy Goh and Hock Chee, Evangel Assembly (*Facilities*)
- Pr Willie Tan, Hope of God (*Ushers*)
- Pr Mark Chen and Gary Khoo, Cornerstone Baptist Church (*Technical*)
- Ruth Lew, Hope of Glory (*Prayer*)
- K.L. Lam, SS Methodist Church (*Publicity*)
- Lim Seng Watt, Evangelism Explosion (*Books*)

And finally, our sincere thanks to the spouses of the committee members; volunteers; singers and musicians; NECF Malaysia staff; and all those who have helped in one way or another.

11TH WEF General Assembly and WEF'S 50th Anniversary

Malaysian Church to host historic double event

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11th WEF General Assembly



WORLD EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP



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May 4-10, 2001

KUALA LUMPUR
MALAYSIA 2001

US Church says sorry to Henry Ramaya

World Revival Church, Kansas City in USA (WRC), has apologised to Rev. Dr Henry Ramaya for misquoting him in their report, "Outpouring Touches Leaders in Singapore and Malaysia."

Rev. Ramaya was purported to have made highly sensitive remarks about religious conversion in Malaysia at a revival meeting held late last year in his church, Grace Community Centre, Petaling Jaya. According to the report, he said: "This is a critical hour for our nation. Right now, three states in Malaysia have passed laws forbidding Muslims from converting to Christianity. If they convert, they will be beheaded."

The article also quoted him as saying "Malaysian government officials could put the law into effect with the stroke of a pen." Rev. Ramaya had denied making the statements and sought clarification from Pastor Steve Gray, who was the speaker at the meeting and is the Senior Pastor of WRC. But the report was written by a member of his team, Leilani Haywood, who was also at the revival meeting. The article

was circulated through e-mail and published in at least two international Christian magazines, the *International Revival Network* and *Religion Today*.

In its statement of apology, Haywood said: "...please accept my deepest apologies for the inaccuracies...I should have verified this information with you before publishing it."

The purported statements created anxiety among local readers who had read the report in the magazines. The NECF Malaysia office received numerous phone calls from concerned church leaders and pastors.

For the record, the State Administration of Muslim Law Enactments of Sabah, Melaka, Kelantan and Perlis, have imposed an apostasy law which carries a detention of up to two years (one year in an *Aqidah* Rehabilitation Centre) or RM3,000 fine or both on Muslims attempting to change their *aqidah* (faith) to become non-Muslims. There is no mention of beheading of apostates in the State

legislations except in Kelantan where the Hudud laws can be applied and prescription exists for death penalty for apostasy. This enactment is applicable to Muslims converting to any faith and not just Christianity alone. Also, any amendment to the Federal Constitution requires a two-thirds majority vote in the Parliament. Government officials cannot make any amendments "at the stroke of the pen."

Responding to this issue, NECF Malaysia Secretary-General Rev. Wong Kim Kong cautioned writers to be extremely careful in their reports, especially on matters concerning the government and religious practices. Inaccurate reports could put the Church in a bad light within the community and cause tension between the church and government.

"Of late, the relationship of religious groups with the Government has been on a progressively positive note and it has to be further cemented for the benefit of our communities," he advised. ■

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NECF Malaysia 2001 Calendar of Events

DATE EVENT

VENUE

January

5-6	Seminar on "Finding Hope Again"	RLC, PJ
24-27	BM Youth Conference	
26	BM Combined Churches Prayer Meeting	
31-2/2	WEF International Consultation on Globalisation	J.W. Marriott

February

7	BM Seminar on Law for Pastors and Leaders	
10	Member Care Consultation II	NECF Conf. Room
11	Official Launch of "Pastors' Prayer Shield"—Pahang	Kuantan
23	BM Combined Churches Prayer Meeting	
26	Official Launch of "Pastors' Prayer Shield"—Klang Valley region	Calvary Ch.. KL

March

4-6	BM "Celebrate Jesus" Conference	
16	Official Launch of "Pastors' Prayer Shield"—Kelantan	Kota Bahru
24	BM Combined Churches Prayer Meeting	

April

13	BM Combined Churches Good Friday Worship Service	
19-20	BM Leadership and Church Management Conference	Johor Bahru
27	BM Combined Churches Prayer Meeting	

May

4-10	WEF General Assembly	J.W. Marriott
5-10	WEF Public Meeting at 7.30pm nightly	MCA Hall

June

1-2	BM Church Planting Conference	
23	Official Launch of 40-Day National Fast	
29	BM Combined Churches Prayer Meeting	
29-30	BM Leadership and Church Management Conference	Melaka

July

22	Start of 40-Day National Fast	
27	BM Combined Churches Prayer Meeting	
27-28	BM Leadership and Church Management Conference	Ipoh

August

24-25	BM Leadership and Church Management Conference	Penang
30	National Day Prayer Rally	
30-1/9	Prayer Wave 2001—Merdeka Day Marches, Community Projects, Hospital and Prison Visitations	
31	End of 40-Day National Fast with Thanksgiving Service	

September

20-22	Research Commission Conference*	
28-29	BM Leadership and Church Management Conference	Kuala Lumpur

October

18-20	"Uniting the Glorious Church for Prayer and Evangelism" National Prayer Conference*	
26	BM Combined Churches Prayer Meeting	

November

11	International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church	
11-15	BM Combined Churches Fast and Pray	

December

1	Combined Churches 2001 Christmas Thanksgiving Service	
17-21	BM Combined Churches Fast and Pray	

* To be confirmed.

BM Combined Churches Good Friday Worship Service

For the first time, BM churches in the Klang Valley will celebrate Good Friday together on April 13 at a combined churches Worship Service organised by the NECF Malaysia Bahasa Malaysia Commission. The message of the Service will revolve around the death of Jesus and evangelism. To remind afresh the sufferings and sacrifice of our Lord, the "Jesus" film, which is distributed by Campus Crusade for Christ, will be screened. Due to time constraint, only the latter part of the video—from the time Jesus was arrested until His crucifixion—will be shown.

For more information, please contact Alfred Tais at 019-2683119 or NECF office 03-77278227 (tel.).

Member Care Consultation II

The NECF Malaysia Missions Commission is organising a one-day member care consultation on 10 February at the NECF Conference Room. Registration fee is RM50 which includes lunch, tea and materials.

The speakers are Dr Kelly O'Donnell and Dr Brent Linquist. Kelly, a psychologist, works with YWAM and Member Care Associates based in France. He is a member of Memca, the member care task force of the WEF Missions Commission. His work with Memca focuses on supporting member care development within/from the Newer Sending Countries.

Brent, also a psychologist, is president of Link Care Centre, USA, which provides comprehensive counselling, pastoral care, training for mission organisations and churches. One of his current projects is working with other interested member care professionals in establishing a member care resource centre in Northern Thailand. Brent is also a member of Memca.

For more information, please contact Sarah Yap at the NECF office 03-77278227 (tel.).

SABAH CHRISTIANS STORM THE STATE

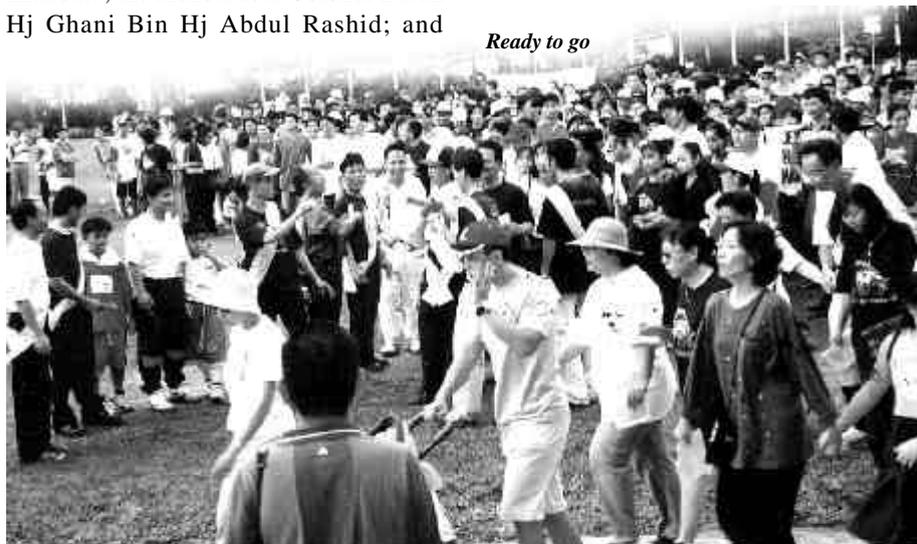
The walk was the talk of the town long after the event on 5 November 2000 was over. In Kota Kinabalu alone, some 3,500 Christians turned up for the *Love KK/Walk-for-Jesus* march to raise funds for various charitable organisations in the state. At the same time, some 10,000 Christians in towns all over Sabah marched out under the mother banner of *Love the town/Walk for Jesus* project. That Sunday evening, the Church of Jesus Christ in Sabah raised more than RM100,000 for the needy, particularly those in prisons.

The march, held also in Tawau, Sandakan, Keningau, Lahad Datu, Kudat and Labuan, was truly a show of solidarity with churches coming together to bless the state in prayer and help the poorer segment of society. Christians of all ages, races and ranks walked side by side, praying for revival and proclaiming God's rule over the land beneath the wind. At the end of

the march, participants gathered for a time of praise, worship and thanksgiving.

The event was graced by Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Local Housing and Infrastructure Datuk Wilfred Bumburing; the Mayor of Kota Kinabalu, the Honourable Colonel Datuk Hj Ghani Bin Hj Abdul Rashid; and

President of the Sabah Council of Churches, the Most Reverend Archbishop Datuk Yong Ping Chung.—*Reported by Philip Lyn, Chairman of the Organising Committee Walk for Jesus 2000.*



Ready to go

SHARING RESOURCES

Watchmen's Forum 2

A compilation of articles on current issues with an eschatological perspective written by NECF Malaysia Research Commission members. Topics include postmodernism, science and technology, mass deception and the New Age Movement. Available at the NECF office at RM10 each.

Handbook on Mission Agencies



A local resource booklet containing information on the mission agencies operating locally. The first of its kind in Malaysia, the handbook also has some statistics and data on the state and needs of missions worldwide. Published by NECF Malaysia Missions Commission and available at the NECF office at RM8.00 each.



Worship CD

King of Kings worship CD filled with popular worship songs at RM10.00 each.

Other books available from NECF Malaysia

- **Preacher, Prepare Yourself! (Towards Better Preaching)** by Tan Jin Huat at RM30 each.
- **Treasure in Jars of Clay** by Claudio Freidzon at RM35 each.
- **Freedom of Religion in Malaysia** by Lee Min Choon at RM15 each.

Appointment



Dr Vincent Leoh has been appointed the new General Superintendent of the General Council of the Assemblies of God of Malaysia with effect from November 7, 2000. He replaces Rev. Datuk Dr Prince Guneratnam who has held the position for 26 years. Dr Leoh is also the Main Pastor of Glad Tidings AOG, Petaling Jaya. He received his Doctorate of Philosophy in Christian Communication from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

FOREIGN NEWS

Little Biblical Basis for Territorial Spirits

There is little biblical or historical warrant for territorial spirits. All participants at the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelisation and the Association of Evangelicals in Africa agreed on this at a consultation on spiritual conflict in Nairobi last August.

Most participants warned against the view that prayer against territorial spirits is the key to evangelism. Others said that in spite of the lack of biblical support, they felt free to 'colour outside the lines.' Coming from 11 countries on five continents, the participants agreed that there are striking similarities between what happened in the ancient church to what is happening in demonic encounters and deliverance today.

The consultation called for spiritual conflict to be part of holistic ministry but issued a number of warnings. It urged sensitivity in the use of language in this area. While biblical, the term 'spiritual warfare' is offensive to non-Christians and carries connotations that seem contradictory coming from those who serve a Lord who died on a cross, the consultation agreed.

The consultation warned against syncretism between spiritual conflict and traditional spiritual beliefs, and cautioned practitioners to avoid making spiritual conflict into Christian magic. "Any suggestion that a particular technique or method in spiritual conflict ministry ensures success is a magical, sub-Christian understanding of God's working, the consultation statement says.—*LCWE Newsletter*

Adventists Start AIDS Committee

An AIDS study committee, recently established by the Seventh-day Adventist Church's General Conference, has been charged with tracking the impact of HIV/AIDS on society and the church, and recommending new, more effective ways for the Adventist Church to respond to the worldwide epidemic.

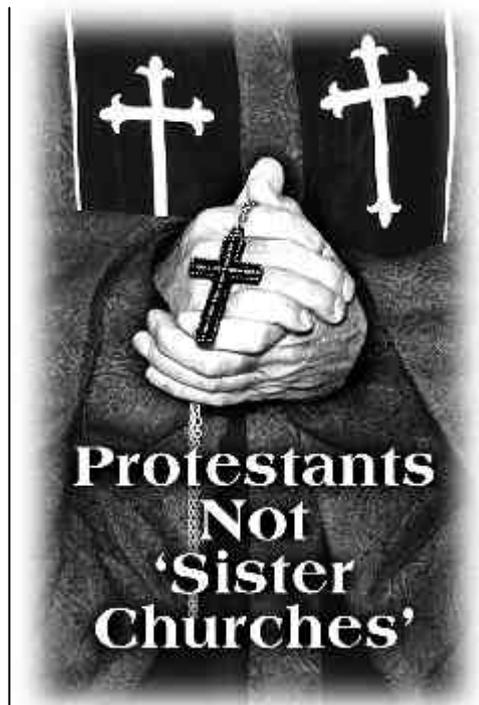
The AIDS committee could play a vital part in breaking through the complacency that has grown up around the HIV/AIDS issue, says Gary Hopkins, secretary of the committee. Hopkins, who heads the Centre for Adolescent Behaviour Research and the Institute for the Prevention of Addictions at Andrews University, Michigan, says that HIV/AIDS is a problem that isn't "going away."

An estimated 50 million people around the world have been infected with HIV; of these, one-third has already died. According to current international projections, 50 million people will die of AIDS in the coming decade. Harvey Elder, a committee member, says that

some geographical regions especially in Africa and Asia are "facing a crisis of stupendous proportions." "In Botswana, for instance, 15- to 45-year olds have a 65% chance of dying of AIDS," says Elder.

Both Elder and Hopkins say there has been a reluctance in the Protestant Christian community including the Adventist Church to face up to the issue of HIV/AIDS, with all its physical horror and assumed moral ambiguity.

The 31-member committee includes Adventist health professionals and church leaders from Australia, Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. The committee will make recommendations on strategies for "prevention and control of the HIV/AIDS epidemic among Seventh-day Adventists", for "ministry and service" to church members with HIV/AIDS, and for "advocacy for individuals with HIV/AIDS which address such areas as acceptance within the community of believers, housing, insurance, medical care, and employment." —*World Pulse*



A document approved by Pope John Paul II and issued by Roman Catholic leaders last September has cast doubt on the Vatican's intentions in seeking dialogue with other Christian traditions. The 36-page document written to counter religious relativism followed a letter that the Vatican sent to presidents of all Roman Catholic bishops' conferences. The letter directed them to stop referring to Anglican and Protestant denominations as "sister churches."

The document states that "definitive and complete" revelation of Jesus Christ is transmitted only by the pope and his bishops; the Roman Catholic Church, therefore, is the only "instrument for the salvation of all humanity." With the exception of Orthodox churches, other Christian faiths "suffer from defects" and therefore are "ecclesial communities" rather than true churches, the document said. The church of Christ "is present and operative" in Orthodox churches even though they do not accept the doctrine of papal primacy, it added.

Protestant denominations seeking ecumenical rapport with the Catholic Church found the document disturbing. The pope's concurrence came as a surprise because he has made Christian reconciliation a hallmark of his 22-year papacy. Some critics consider this latest move an attempt to stifle reforms following the Second Vatican Council and to set strictly conservative parameters for the next pope.—*Christianity Today*

For Your Intercession



CENTRAL AFRICA

The Gbaya people of the Central African Republic can now read the Scriptures in their own language. The *Teachings of Jesus Christ* and *Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world*, two booklets based on Luke's Gospel, have been produced by SGM International in partnership with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Many Gbaya people regularly attend church and pray to God, but often revert to traditional religious practices. "They don't know yet that Jesus has power to free them from evil spirits," said a Bible translator. "We see SGM's new booklets as tools to lead them to a life where the Gospel has more impact and relevance." Pray for wide distribution of the booklets and for their impact. *Prov. 30:5*

FRANCE

Faithful work by missionaries over many years is bearing fruit in France. Inter-church tent evangelism in Anneville and Chateauroux brought 180 to 200 people to each evening meeting and at least 30 responded to the call for salvation. Pray for the churches to grow in unity and for their combined evangelistic effort to be increasingly fruitful.

ROMANIA

"When we saw life among the girls who sleep in the park, we couldn't believe our eyes," said Sue Bates who, with husband Ron, runs a ministry to street children and orphans in Bucharest, Romania. These girls "spent their days begging, stealing, fighting off pimps, bathing in a polluted river and trying to keep what sanity they had left after being raised in a Romanian orphanage. We brought them blankets, clothes, soup and other hot meals every day for about two months." The Bates stopped three mafia men kidnapping two street girls for prostitution. They brought the terrified girls home along with 17 other rain-soaked street children. Pray for youngsters like them in the child-trafficking centre of Europe where children are even kidnapped from orphanages. Showing the love of God to street children whom the Bates took into

their home means a lot of heartache and tears. At first, these girls were abusive, stealing things and selling them. But through helping to care for the baby orphans in the home, the abusive girls were slowly transformed. God poured His love in their hardened hearts through the helpless babies. Pray for the Bates' ministry and all those in their home to find the God of love.

BOGOTA

The Other Way is a Youth With A Mission ministry to street children in Bogota where a person can be killed for as little as a cigarette. The team works among children in Al Cartucho ghetto who, among other things, are involved in arms trafficking. Pray for street children to be rescued, rehabilitated and come to Christ through *The Other Way*. *Psalms 30:1*

MEXICO

People living in remote regions of Mexico are receiving Gospel packages dropped by parachute from small Mercy Wings International planes. Opening the package, which contains a copy of John's Gospel and a solar-powered radio, activates the radio, transmitting the message of salvation from High Adventure Ministries in Los Angeles. Jerry Witt reckons that he and his two fellow Mercy Wings pilots have delivered 1,200 packages in two years to tribespeople in Mexico's desert region. Several thousand packages have been distributed on foot. Many have come to faith through this ministry. Mercy Wings is identifying other areas of central Mexico unreached by the Gospel and developing effective strategies among the inhabitants while at the same time encouraging mission within the Mexican Church. Pray for creative ideas of sharing the Gospel and a continuing harvest.

TAIWAN

Since a huge earthquake claimed 2,000 lives in central Taiwan in September 1999, Christian workers have seen God's Spirit gently at work among the survivors. There

is a new openness to Christ in places like the city of Taichung. After the earthquake, new faces turned up at a university Bible study group run by an OMF staff member. They began to bring their friends and this prompted one-to-one studies of the Scriptures. Other OMF workers found families shocked by devastation of their homes willing to hear about Jesus. Pray for the Taiwanese Christians to seize this opportunity to witness to and care for those traumatised by the earthquake.

NORTH KOREA

North Koreans are forced into idolatrous worship of the country's leader, Kim Il Sung, so-called Dear Leader. Reports that have reached Open Doors tell of Christians kept in horse-type paddocks, hungry and without proper shelter, because they worship the Lord Jesus instead of the leader. Pray for those who are suffering for Jesus. Thousands of people flee from North Korea to China each year to escape a brutal regime and the famine. Pray that they will come into contact with Christians and find true peace and meaning to life. Also pray for Chinese Christians who risk fines and imprisonment for sheltering North Korean refugees.

SSESE ISLANDS

"Physically, the Ssesse Islands are a tropical paradise. Spiritually, they are one of the world's darkest corners," said AIM International missionary Steve Wolcott. The islands are on Lake Victoria, Uganda and the islanders exist as fishermen, drinking and gambling away all they earn. Over half of them have AIDS. But these things are changing, thanks to Mission Aviation Fellowship flying in mission and church workers. John Mayombe had AIDS and wanted to commit suicide. Then Steve arrived with a film about Jesus. John opened his life to the Saviour. Steve helped him to reach Mildmay Hospital in Kampala. Now John is well enough to work to feed his children—a remarkable healing. Pray for many more Ssesse islanders to know the Lord's love through the work of the missionaries there.