

Such an attitude will also answer the question whether the Holy Spirit can be programmed. No, he cannot be programmed. But as a Spirit of order he operates according to *his order* but not without an order.

Let us claim the power of God and walk and work in the power, liberty, and order of God, and world evangelization will become a reality.

RESPONSE TO: CONTEMPORARY PRACTICES OF EVANGELISM

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Under the subject of *Crusade evangelism*, Dr. George Peters refers to a crusade evangelism that is going on in the Philippines which he calls a crusade to plant thousands of evangelism and Bible study cells throughout the Republic.

This is exactly what we are trying to do in the Philippines in our national program of saturation evangelism and church growth known as the Christ the Only Way Movement. The Movement started as a vision at the World Congress on Evangelism in Berlin in 1966, formulated as a mission at the Asia-South Pacific Congress on Evangelism in Singapore in 1968, and finally launched as a united action of Philippine evangelical churches at the All Philippines Congress on Evangelism in 1970.

We have just concluded a six-month city-wide evangelistic campaign all over the Philippines where as many people as possible have been exposed to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The many hundreds of inquirers in these campaigns have been organized into home Bible study groups, while others have already joined local churches. Our follow-up strategy in the Christ the Only Way Movement for our city-wide evangelistic campaigns and other mass Gospel meetings is these home Bible study groups which we call the Lay Evangelistic Group Studies. As a rule, we do not bring our inquirers into the fellowship of existing Lay Evangelistic Group Studies, or LEGS for short, where they study the Word of God at least one hour each week. And in the absence of any LEGS unit in the area, we form these inquirers into new LEGS groups.

It is obvious from this strategy that our immediate goal of crusade evangelism in the Philippines through the Christ the Only Way Movement is the establishment of new groups of believers or new congregations. We are not content with the mere expansion of membership of existing local churches. We feel that since our goal is to disciple the Filipino nation, we must have churches or groups of believers meeting regularly for worship in every conceivable cultural and homogeneous group of people throughout the Philippine archipelago.

Spain ruled the Philippines for more than three centuries, and it was when there was already a Catholic church in every town and a Catholic chapel in every barrio that Spain could lay claim that the Philippines was already Christianized. Perhaps when we shall have already established a group or groups of believers in every city, town, and barrio throughout the Philippines, we might also be able to claim that we have already disciplined the entire Filipino nation for Christ.

We feel it is not enough to set as the goal of evangelism the winning

of souls to Jesus Christ, or that the ultimate goal of evangelism is the establishment or growth of churches. Indeed, evangelism must result in the conversion of people to Jesus Christ and the growth of the Christian community. But this must be done within the context of the Great Commission of God for the church, which is the *discipling of a nation*.

It is possible for a country to have a population of believers in Christ much larger than the Christian population of another country, and still remain undisciplined as a nation. On the other hand, the country with a much smaller population of believers in Christ may be the one that has already met the requirements of being disciplined as a nation. On the basis of our own cultural understanding of bringing an entire nation within the psychological influence of religion as Spain did in the Philippines in the latter part of the sixteenth century, we feel it is not so much the number of people won to Christ and the number of churches established or the increase of membership in churches, as in the strategic establishment of these hundreds of groups of believers or house churches within psychological distance between each other that determines whether a nation is already disciplined for Jesus Christ.

There are 52,048 barrios, 1,433 towns, and 61 cities in the Philippines. This means that about 55,000 churches or groups of believers are needed to bring the entire Philippine population within psychological distance of Christian communities. There are already more than 3,000 Christian churches in the Philippines. Most of these are in the cities and towns. This means therefore that we need about 50,000 more new groups of believers or churches, most of which will be in the barrios and towns. This is the only way to bring the entire Filipino nation within psychological distance of groups of believers in Christ.

This is what we are striving to do in the Philippines through the Christ the Only Way Movement. We have set as our goal the establishment of groups of believers in all the barrios and towns of the country where there are yet no groups of believers or Christian churches. Based on our survey, we will need at least 50,000 more new groups of believers or Bible-believing churches to reach our goal of discipling the Philippines for Christ in our generation.

Right now, we have about 10,000 of these Lay Evangelistic Group Studies throughout the country. We hope to convert these 10,000 LEGS into groups of believers meeting regularly for worship in strategic areas of the communities where they are located. Added to these 10,000 LEGS are more than 6,000 cells of believers which we call in the Christ the Only Way Movement, Core groups. These Cores are groups of believers in Christ meeting regularly once a week for sharing, teaching, and praying. These are already believers in Christ and from these groups come those who lead in the Lay Evangelistic Group Studies. We also hope to convert these Core groups into new congregations or house churches. Like the LEGS which are convertible to groups of believers, the Core groups are potential new congregations or house churches.

This is what we believe the Lord of the harvest is asking us to do in the Philippines today. Our timetable to reach our goal is set towards the end of the present century. We believe the Lord has given us the program to disciple the Philippines in our time. We believe the Lord has

given us the people who can do the task of fulfilling the Great Commission in our land. We believe the Lord will provide us the means to teach, train, and mobilize our churches in the Philippines for the task of discipling our nation in our generation.