

exist in the world, had been dedicated to the extirpation of the Christian religion and all its works; and of how nonetheless, thanks to the genius of Tolstoy, Jesus' message, the enchantment of his words and presence, what he came into the world to do and say and suffer, had remained accessible.

For confirmation we have Solzhenitsyn, the Soviet regime's foremost rebel, who so brilliantly and forcefully challenges its pretensions, in the name not of freedom or democracy, or of any of the twentieth century's counterfeit hopes, but of his Christian faith, with its insistence on the absolutes of love rather than the relativities of justice, on the universality of brotherhood rather than the particularity of equality, on the perfect freedom which is service rather than the perfect service which is freedom. The odds against its happening were astronomical, but it has happened. If, when I was a journalist in Moscow, someone had said to me that the most distinguished Russian writer and the product of the Soviet regime would write as Solzhenitsyn has; and I quote, "I myself see Christianity today as the only living spiritual force capable of undertaking the spiritual healing of Russia" — if anyone had predicted that which was said by such a one as Solzhenitsyn, I would have given a million to one against it. Yet it happened. Surely, a miracle, and one of the greatest.

For me now the experience of living in this world is nearly over. My lines, such as they are, have been spoken; my entrances and exits all made. It is a prospect, I am thankful to say, that I can face without panic, fear, or undue remorse; confident that, as an infinitesimal part of God's creation, I am a participant in his purposes, which are loving, not malign, creative, not destructive, orderly, not chaotic; and that, however somberly at times the darkness may lower, and however men may seem to prefer the darkness, the light that first came to Galilee 2,000 years ago; and through the succeeding centuries has illuminated all that was greatest in the work and lives of men, can never be put out. The other day there were published in English the last words Tolstoy wrote. They, too, were about his light, and he concluded: "That, my dear brother, is what I have been trying to say." I echo his words.

A LAYMAN LOOKS AT WORLD EVANGELIZATION

Ford Madison

Let me ask you, who are Christian leaders, what do you want from us? What do you want from common, ordinary believers?

Does the non-professional layman fit anywhere into your planning for world evangelism? Much of what I've heard here has emphasized systems and methods and materials and the sending of thousands of professional missionaries, but what about the millions of ordinary Christians? God's Word says in II Cor. 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Vs. 18, "And hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation." Vs. 19, "Hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." Vs. 20, "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ."

What do you want from us? In the last five months I asked many, many laymen — and several pastors — What is a good layman? What do you think most pastors want? The consensus is:

1. our attendance at all meetings
2. our money
3. our support of "their" programs
4. "Do not try to change anything."

Is that *all* you *really* want? My attendance and my money?

Laymen want to be involved in what counts. I believe the church's real program of evangelism should start when the building is closed and empty. Jesus said, "I don't pray that the Father take you out of the world but that he be with you in the world." The world is between Sundays. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. That's where the people are ... that God so loves.

The most exciting, greatest enterprise I have found is to be involved with God in the life-changing business. He is calling out a people and then building them up together. E.M. Bounds has written, "We are constantly looking for better methods but God is looking for better men. Men are God's methods." The Gospel is changeless, and I believe God's basic method of communication is changeless. God — the Holy Spirit — in people. The Word made flesh.

Why say, "Go here or go there," when, behold, the power to evangelize is within us?

Waldron Scott, who prepared an audio/visual presentation "The Task Before Us," helped me with some numbers: If each nominal Christian in the world (and there are about one billion) were motivated and trained to win only one person to Christ in a year and would train that person to repeat the process, the world could be reached in less time than it took to prepare for this Congress. Less than two years. If only 10% of these professing Christians would be faithfully winning and training it would take 5 1/2 years.

Of course, everyone won't win someone. But let's not close our minds and hearts to the tremendous potential of winning and training. As Paul wrote in II Tim. 2:2, "The things thou hast heard of me among many

witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men who are able to teach others also."

If each of us in this room, without any outside help, would in addition to our other duties, win and train just *one* person yearly and then they'd do the same thing repeating the process yearly, we could evangelize our world before the end of this century.

I can't win thousands but I can win and train one just like the man won and trained me. Just like I can't swallow a whole elephant but I can take one bite at a time. And remember, there are thousands like me...it wouldn't take 1,000 long to eat an elephant.

What do laymen want? We want to be involved in what really counts. And we need you to show us how to study the Bible, how to pray, how to live in love, how to witness, how to have Christ formed in us.

We need you. We want to be one with you. Let's withstand Satan by closing the gap between the clergy and laity. *This is not a biblical division!*

We need your leadership, your challenge. What do you want from us? I hope you'll want more than nominal commitment to use the common believers. I hope you'll want laymen so much that you'll challenge us in commitment, train us to win and train others so that we, too, might be personally involved in world evangelization.

A LAYMAN LOOKS AT WORLD EVANGELIZATION

Jan Nickolaas Huwae

The 20th century is the layman century. Church leaders and ministers around the world are in agreement that the mission of the church is to evangelize and propagate the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To insure that the church will not die but flourish, evangelism done by laymen is fast becoming a part of the regular church program. To carry on an active, effective program of evangelism, the church *must* have the full support of its laity. Every believer can and should be a witness. In effect, they are either good or bad, for the Scripture points out very clearly that we are "epistles of Christ" known and read of all men (II Cor. 3:2,3). More than that, we are in the world the holy priests and ambassadors of our heavenly Father to witness and to glorify Him (II Cor. 5:20; I Peter 2:5).

The layman in this twentieth century is a potential witness. He need not be a super-salesman nor a super-human being to be used of God. In fact, God has called the foolish things of the world to confound the wise, and the weak things to confound the mighty (I Cor. 1:27). We need but to turn our life and our personality over to God and we can say like Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." There is no excuse for not serving God daily as a witness. Not that we should leave our business to serve Christ, but make it our business to serve Christ in and through our business.

In order to do that, first of all we must have:

1. *Personal assurance* of sins forgiven; of life eternal, of positive relationship and of positive present possession.
2. *Awareness of responsibility* to glorify God, to bear witness and have fellowship one with another, to read and obey God's Word, to spend time in prayer, to obey God's will and the Holy Spirit.
3. *The discipline of devotions* — through daily devotions we get a knowledge of the Bible and keep close to the Lord to maintain a victorious, spirit-filled, dynamic Christian life. With Christ in control life is balanced and effective.

We have already pointed out that the mission of the church is to evangelize and propagate the faith. Every believer then as a member of the body of Christ becomes responsible to bear witness.

Witness means: To give facts or evidence, to testify to one with a personal knowledge of anything.

Let us briefly find out and answer the following questions.

1. *Who should witness?* To consider reverends, pastors, and bishops, as the only group specially called to serve the Lord is irrelevant to God's standpoint. "Ye shall be my witness or ambassador ..." (Acts 1:8; II Cor. 5:18-20) means everyone — every believer, every born-again person. It can be a doctor, a lawyer, a teacher, a clerk, or a policeman like me. We have only to obey the Great Commission as a good Christian soldier.

We thank God that since the beginning of the twentieth century there are many spiritual fighters without using any church title who wit-