

## EVANGELIZATION AMONG INTELLECTUALS REPORT

Secretary: *Chen Ai Yen*

Evangelicals are challenged to think through their faith and their methodology of proclaiming Christ in a balanced and credible way this afternoon. In leading a very lively discussion, Mr. Oswald Guinness said that thinking people present a unique opportunity for Gospel presentation because of their vital role in society at a time of "bankruptcy of secular thoughts."

Mr. Guinness believes the world is now looking for alternative answers to the Renaissance idea of the complete supremacy of man as an individual. Democracy is at stake, and thinking men around the world are searching for an answer which would relate men more to the state, to society, to the universe. Is the evangelical prepared to meet this need? Is he ready to think, to raise questions, and to bring thinking men to a point of conviction about the claims and promises of Jesus Christ?

Mr. Guinness deliberately avoided the use of the word "intellectual" which seems to concentrate only on the mind of man rather than on the "whole" man. Instead he used the more extensive term of "thinking men" to include the majority of modern opinion-makers, and in fact all sincere and honest seekers of truth with whom Christians have to come into contact in real-life situations. How are they to be approached?

According to Mr. Guinness, the best approach is "person to person." Even though there is still a place for other methods, thinking man has to be approached alone because he puts a high premium on independent thought and private judgment. The principle is to maintain a balance between polar truths such as God's sovereignty and man's significance and to practice truth with consistency and honesty. Evangelicals should remember that witnessing to the "whole" man rather than being concerned only with his soul is essential. They should also carefully omit using secular sales or psychological tactics in their presentation of the Gospel.

## EVANGELIZATION OF CHILDREN

*Herman H. ter Welle*

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What a fantastic experience! Fourteen hundred workers from thirty-five European countries came together in Amsterdam in August, 1971, for the European Congress on Evangelism. Billy Graham's opening message, "The Biblical Mandate to Evangelize" was like the marching orders of a general. When the address closed with William Carey's motto, "Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God," my heart fairly shouted, "Amen." That is what we long for in all the various countries of the continent of Europe, and indeed of the world. Children's evangelism is not incidental. It is not without engagement. It is a must for the whole church!

a. *Disillusion* — In Amsterdam three years ago, Cliff Richard and his team presented a program to a capacity audience. It was a highly professional demonstration of how modern youth can be reached. Yet at the end of that day I was not very happy. My thoughts went back to the afternoon workshop for the evangelism of children under the leadership of Miss Claire-Lise de Benoit from Switzerland. It was a very small group, mostly ladies. The program had been carefully prepared, but out of the discussion came forth one unanimous heartfelt cry about the loneliness of the children's worker in the total program of the evangelization of the church today.

That congress had been an inspiration to evangelism in general, but produced also a deep disillusion about the field of children's evangelism. On the whole, we are not really convinced of the desperate need of that third of mankind that is most open for the Gospel, and out of whom the world leaders and the authorities of the future will arise. What if the Communist leaders of today had been converted when they were still children? At the end of the workshop a few of us met for prayer. "Lord, let a worldwide emphasis be placed on the evangelization of the child in your church."

b. *A new vision*. Something was born. Our desire quite naturally expanded into a plan of action. On September 1, 1972, more than 150 leading children's workers from sixteen European countries assembled in Lausanne. Their theme: "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a draught" (Luke 5:1-11). Three points stood out:

(i) The Lord's order to Peter, "Launch out." It was not so much new techniques for the lowering of nets, but the fact of being present and ready for a general mobilization at the great *command*, the overwhelming task of the actual lowering of nets to draw in the huge shoals of little fish. The enemy is deceitfully lowering his nets, but the Lord is still there with his command to all of his disciples today.