

## EVANGELISM TO HIPPIES AND OTHER SUB-CULTURE GROUPS REPORT

In discussing ministry to "hippies" and other subcultures, we must first consider the definitions of these groups. A subculture could be those involved in a "trip" of some sort, whether it be drugs, surfing, or any other thing which possesses much of their time and interest. The groups which we discussed dealt specifically with ministry to both the drug addict and the so-called "freaks." In this report we wish to share discussion about one specific ministry which has been quite effective, to look at both positive and negative methods in this type of evangelism and to make specific recommendations to further enhance our resources in this field of ministry.

We were privileged to have present the author of the paper, Mr. Ron Munstra from the Netherlands, and he was able to provide tremendous enlightenment on the subject because of his vast experience. Ministry to these types of people requires a person with real commitment, love, and a call from God to give all that he has so that these people may be won to Christ. Mr. Munstra's ministry began with a deep conviction and desire to communicate the Gospel to the "freaks" in a park near his home. He would go to the park and begin sharing with these young people and inviting them to his home. As he invited them to his home, they saw in Ron a person who was concerned for them, who would listen to them, and was willing to get involved with them. As young people came to know Jesus as Lord, he found it necessary to begin a house-ministry which could take these young people who really wanted help from Jesus, and were willing to submit to Christ. They would rent a house for approximately ten people and would staff it with people called to this ministry. Through personal contact in the parks and on the streets, they would share with people that Jesus could set them free. Mr. Munstra has stressed the importance of accepting them as they are and personally ministering to their specific needs. When asked about the change from the old life to the new life in Christ, and if there were hassles in giving up bad habits, Mr. Munstra replied, "A person is a patient in a sense. When he comes into the program he is treated until he is better and after that he must decide personally what he must keep and what he must give up."

Mr. Munstra brought with him a young man who was converted through this ministry. The young man said that if they had told him that he couldn't smoke and couldn't drink or other things which he was into at the time of contact, he would have told them to forget it.

He was accepted and was led to Christ, and sometime afterward he was sitting with a cigarette in his hands, thinking to himself, "If Jesus were here, would he smoke this?" In his heart he knew the answer would be "no" and immediately asked Jesus to help him quit. There was a definite emphasis on providing a proper atmosphere that functioned as a real family. One member suggested that what they really desired was acceptance, security, success, love, spiritual answers for their needs, and honesty. Ultimately, as they accepted Christ, they became members of the family of God and received help for all six of these needs.

Some of the things which really enhanced the ministry was their open and honest approach to these young people and the willingness to "get their hands dirty." As the young people came into the house, they found a sense of belonging and realized how much they needed Jesus and their brothers and sisters in Christ. There is real koinonia and body ministry in that they work together and minister to each other. In this particular ministry, the young people work and share in all the expenses.

Some of the problems they have to work with come about because many young people want to kick their drugs only with the motive of coming off and getting new thrills when they start again. Therefore, Mr. Munstra will accept only those who really mean business with God and are willing to have Jesus become Lord of their lives. Another very real problem is their acceptance into the traditional church structure. It seems that one thing must take place if we truly are going to evangelize the world. We must pray that each of us can begin to see mankind through the eyes of God. Another area which needs to be understood is that of cross subcultures, that within the subculture groups there may be the same basic root causes; but individualized ministry to each group is different and necessary.

Some ministries that are in existence today are:

1. "The Family," run by the Reverend Dr. Arthrol Gill of Australia.
2. Mr. Vic Ramsey of England.
3. "Youth with a Mission," which has ministries in Morocco, Nepal, and other places in the East.
4. "Love Liberation," under Floyd McClung in Amsterdam, Holland.
5. Hamburg, West Germany, with "The Salvation Army."

There are many other ministries like this and we would like to recommend that this Congress through its research committees seek out other ministries like Mr. Munstra's. We would suggest that they contact their leaders and ask them to write about their work, including how they began, what it has developed into, some of the methods and a record of their work, any problems which they may have, and how they are dealing with them. We believe that this would be most helpful. After these papers were compiled they could be edited by the Congress and made available as a resource for this field of ministry.

It appears from our group discussion that the priority for the worker is to be called of God, to be filled with the love and compassion of Jesus, and to have the willingness to be totally involved in this ministry. It was also apparent that the most effective way of reaching out to these young people was through providing a facility which could give them the warmth and love of belonging to a family and attempting to meet their needs spiritually, physically, and culturally. As there are many variations in a ministry like this, we believe that obedience to the Holy Spirit and his specific direction would be the most important priority in effectively accomplishing this ministry to "hippies," "freaks," and members of other subculture groups.