

## MOBILIZING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR WORLD EVANGELISM REPORT

Young people today, as in every generation, are seeking a challenge to action. They are looking for direction and are open to new ideas and methods. Youth can be excited with a vision. We must put a vision of the task and the means to accomplish the task before them. Young people are full of faith; they have not heard that it can't be done! They believe God and are willing to step out in faith and trust God for miracles. We must put these attributes to work.

Young people must be taught to be disciples and count the cost of being a follower. There is a cross to bear in effective evangelism. Young people will go through trials, difficulties and testings; in many cases they will fail, and we must permit them to fail. They need the experience as well as the authority and guidance of godly men.

Each young person should be encouraged to build his own group so that we don't build superstructures but throw the responsibility back on the young people to lead and develop.

Training is an important factor in mobilizing young people. Short-term training in basics should be followed by training in the field under supervision. Change of location is also vital in mobilizing young people, as it is much easier for them to start in evangelism and get experience away from their home area.

### *Significant Issues*

1. Cooperation with missionaries. Many nationals feel as if they are by-passed and not taken into the planning stages.
2. Cooperation with churches. It seems as though a dichotomy exists between new converts among young people and the older established churches.

It was recognized that bridges should be built as much as possible but also that at some times and in some places new local churches should be established on a different basis where young people will be accepted and allowed to share their life in Christ within a local church body.

Reasons why young people are getting involved:

1. The Holy Spirit's work
2. Leaders beginning to trust young people with work
3. Acts 2:17 (Joel's prophecy)
4. Challenge of discipleship
5. Identification with a cause or challenge
6. Expect results — reproduction (II Tim. 2:2)
7. More coordinated strategy — energy being channeled
8. Obedience to Word of God.
9. Rediscovery of power in prayer and praise
10. Great response — young people can do it
11. Flexibility of youth to be open to new things

### *Specific Obstacles*

1. Denominational barriers
2. Church tradition — extra-biblical
3. Evangelical culture
4. Lack of courage
5. Revivals of religions — Buddhism, Animism
6. Lack of facilities and funds
7. Lack of trust by leaders and missionaries
8. Shallowness of message
9. Strong family ties
10. Materialism
11. Satan's activity through media
12. Peer pressure — loss of face
13. Politics — anti-God
14. Racism
15. Inconsistency in lives of Christians
16. Corruption

The principle of "go" means a change of location.

Acts 2:7 - Galileans preaching in Jerusalem

Acts 26:4, 20 - Paul in Damascus

Acts 8:1 - all scattered except apostles

Mark 6:5 - Jesus could do no great work in his home town

A change of location will solve many of the problems listed above, e.g., traditionalism, family ties, etc.

### *Issues and Answers*

1. Screening - make sure they understand the cost. Then they rule themselves out.
2. What happens when they get back home? Away from home first gives momentum to come back home. Have them cross denominational lines. It gives them diversity and broadness to see the "body" of Christ as a whole.
3. What do you do if churches are non-receptive? Be submissive. Show an attitude of willingness to help. Yet go on with your work at the same time.

*Summary* - We must keep our programs on a spiritual level and the problem will be resolved as we submit to the Holy Spirit.