

EVANGELISM FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

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Introduction

The rhythm of Jesus' life in which one sees him "going apart" before "going out," and "withdrawing" before "advancing," was seen by our evangelism committee as having real relevance in terms of our assigned task. This was to "listen" for practical suggestions concerning the immediate follow-up activities for individual participants as they arrive home. It was noted that the factors of fatigue, information overload, and spiritual indigestion necessitated that the first thing for participants to do after returning is to:

1. Stop

a. *To rest:* most will need to take time to rest and catch their breath. Someone said we are to work ourselves to death for the Lord — but slowly! This vital rest process will also give time —

b. *To pray:* having heard such a range of ideas and statistics, each of us needs to pray that the Lord will distil out for us those one or two special insights or initiatives which will represent the Holy Spirit's immediate strategy for us as individuals. Pausing to pray will also relieve indigestion and pave the way for digestion. We must stop —

c. *To digest:* the written material. This process will take time and we must each make time to do it. Pausing to rest, pray and digest will prepare us for the next three steps.

2. Share

Our sharing process should happen at at least three levels:

a. *With our immediate colleagues and co-workers:* this should lead first into a serious *re-evaluation* of our own churches, missions, and organizations in the light of Lausanne's insights and models, secondly into a *re-examination* of our respective situations, so that individually and corporately we make our message contextual, in the biblical sense, and relevant.

b. *With our local churches:* this can be done by teamlets of two who will share the Lausanne experience, tools, and resources.

c. *With our denominations and denominational leaders:* this will necessitate scheduling time to see key denominational leaders and write articles for denominational magazines, urging all to give pride of place to evangelism in denominational programs.

Transition: having stopped, having shared, we will then want to *gear up* for action.

3. Gear Up

The gearing up process can likewise happen at three levels:

a. *In prayer cells.*

b. *In brainstorming and planning sessions* (so that we pound out tailor-made strategies for our respective situations).

c. *In maintaining links* by correspondence and thereby maintaining an exchange of ideas, resources, tools and even troubles.

Finally, having stopped, shared, and geared up for action, we are then to *go* out in obedient evangelistic witness.

4. Go

This once again is at three levels:

a. *The personal level:* God help each of us to become gossipers of the Gospel.

b. *The local church level:* this latter can be done through renewed initiatives of *laytraining* and through encouraging our local churches to aim for *measurable growth*.

c. *The community, city and regional level:* many of our communities or regions are perhaps ready for concerted evangelistic endeavors. If so, let's go.

5. Conclusion

In short, it has been recommended by many of you, as we return, that — WE STOP — WE SHARE — WE GEAR UP — WE GO.