INTRODUCTION

From the beginning the International Congress on World Evangelization was marked by involvement. Participants sent in requests for subjects to be covered. These suggestions are evident in the wide range of topics included. Plenary papers were sent in advance of the Congress and participants’ questions, observations and criticisms were sent directly to the speaker involved. At the Congress he did not read his paper but responded to this information. Involvement continued at the Congress in National Strategy and Theology Study papers. Each participant was in one of each of these groups. The fruit of these extended discussions follows each paper.

Realism characterized the Congress papers and discussion. This helped to lead to the vital characteristic of action. Many National Strategy Groups crystallized plans for evangelization which may be instructive to others. They were asked to answer basically two questions: How can we best evangelize our own nation together? And, what contribution can we make to cross-cultural evangelization so that the two billion who have never heard may be reached with the Good News? Practical implications for action came out of the theology and strategy groups. The material here also has the great advantage of wide cross-cultural interaction from all six continents. The Church at the Congress learned from all of its parts.

As you dip into these materials at the point of your particular interest, it is our prayer that the same Spirit who met us in Lausanne, Switzerland, from July 16-25, 1974, will meet you as well—melting and molding you to crystallize the part he wants you to have in world evangelization.

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