

The challenge before us is to set significant goals. Ten year goals can become steps of faith that take us from present limitations to future possibilities—goals that are specific, measurable, and achievable. Let us trust God together to do great things.

At the Manila dump community, I also observed signs of joy and peace in the midst of all the agony. Children could be seen playing soccer on the dirt streets and were laughing. An older woman with a big smile came up and gave Andrew a loving embrace.

I also learned something as I heard from others outside of the team. The community had gone through a transformation over the previous two years. Signs of the presence of God among his people were everywhere: in the fourteen home Bible studies, in the church filled with children at mid-morning, and throughout the community as Christians became salt and light.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, if it can be done in a dump community, then why can we not strive to proclaim the whole gospel to the whole world with the whole church by the year 2000 and until he comes?

Looking Ahead

Floyd McClung

I was asked to comment on looking forward—in light of the next ten days, but also in light of the next ten years. Senator Salonga helped us to put the seriousness of talking about world evangelization into perspective.

We have ten days together—ten very important days. We've all come with expectations. We bring our weaknesses, our disappointments, our personal histories, and we even carry some failures with us. We also come as leaders. God has used us in spite of our weaknesses; he has called us and he has blessed us.

Some of us also come from suffering situations. Last night I sat in the balcony, behind me were brothers from Mozambique and in front of me were brothers from Laos. I was deeply moved by realizing they come from intense situations where suffering is all too real.

Some of us come to this conference with certain misgivings about other people who are here. We carry with us our disagreements, our tensions, our questions. Part of the challenge before us is to receive what God has for us personally. And to be able to receive from the Lord what he has for us in the conference, we must have humility in our hearts and we must have faith. We must be willing to lay aside our fears of one another. We must be willing to lay aside our own weaknesses. And, indeed, we must look to the Lord. We can go through these ten days and approach it from a human perspective: evaluate it with human standards and judge it from what we think about it. And we can miss what God has for us.

I would like to challenge you to ask God to speak to you in these days. I would like to ask you to open your heart to the Lord and receive what he has for you personally. If this Congress is going to make a difference in your life, and in my life, then we must hear from God. We can listen to men and women all week long and miss hearing God unless our hearts are open.

Let's open our hearts in a spirit of humility and teachableness. We need to come as receivers. Perhaps one of the greatest criticisms of Christians in our world is that we often carry with us the sense of triumphalism—a kind of cultural imperialism. It is insensitive to impose the gospel upon people. Perhaps as we look forward, one of the things the Lord wants us to do is to humble ourselves and to adopt a spirit of servanthood toward one another.

If we're going to look forward in the proper spirit then there must also be a spirit of

faith and expectation. I talked to a brother from Africa last night and asked him, "What are you expecting in this conference?"

He said, "I have come with a sense of destiny. I am looking to God to give me direction for my life." What a wonderful attitude to have!

If we're going to look forward, we must look forward together. I was thrilled to hear about missionaries going from a non-Western nation to a Western nation. God wants to do something new for us, a paradigm shift in attitude and in constituency. It is a new world in which we're serving. We're to look at the needs of our world, and the vast numbers of people who have not been reached, with a new attitude and a new kind of partnership to work together in missions.

As we consider the challenge that is before us, three brothers who have looked at the challenge and have accepted it are going to share what God is saying to them. First, we're going to hear from Edison Queiroz. Edison is from Brazil and he is the South American Director for COMIBAM.

"CHALLENGE" TESTIMONY I

Edison Queiroz

Brothers and sisters, God is doing tremendous things in Latin America! In November of 1987, we had a Congress in San Paulo, Brazil, called COMIBAM. In that Congress, God pushed his church and told us clearly that we *must* reach the unreached people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Congress focused on the local church as the instrument of God to go and to reach the world for Christ. And now in Brazil and Latin America we have a strong awakening of the church and are training pastors to go into missions. It's amazing what God is doing!

In May of 1989, I was in El Salvador, Central America. I was to preach there, but five minutes before I arrived, two bombs exploded at the door of the church. When I got there I said, "What happened here?"

"This is the welcome for you!" I replied, "What a crazy kind of welcome!"

Yet, in the middle of that situation, even though there was shouting and helicopters flying around, the people were singing and saying to one another, "Let's go into missions."

At the end of that conference, one local church raised a faith promise of \$55,000. El Salvador is a small country with a bad economy. Many poor people are living in an environment of war, yet one church can raise \$55,000 in a faith promise. This is a miracle! God is pushing his church and doing something to reach the world for Christ.

This church in El Salvador asked to support a missionary couple in the Middle East and another couple in Spain. That is beautiful: A small country, a poor country sending their own missionaries. God is doing a tremendous thing. When you leave this Congress, I want to challenge you to go to your churches and push the people, challenge them, encourage them to go into missions.

Latin America is sponsoring several original efforts to reach the world for Christ. We're helping Costa Rica with a strong congress to help reach all of Central America with missions. We have another congress on the south coast.

I am so glad to share this with you. Pray for Latin America as well as the work in your own country .

"CHALLENGE" TESTIMONY II

Chris Marantika

It is an exciting privilege to be a child of God during this period of the history of the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. In spite of the difficulties the church is facing throughout the world today, exciting things are happening. The church of our Lord is growing. In Indonesia, there is a great movement toward the evangelization of the nation.

There are sixty-seven thousand villages in Indonesia—fifty thousand of them are unreached. But the churches of Indonesia are committed to evangelizing the entire nation. They have initiated a program called "Indonesia One, One, One." We are praying and working toward the year 2000, as *one* generation to plant *one* church in *everyone's* village.

Many of the churches have set goals. The Free Evangelical Church of Indonesia, headed by Dr. Sutjiono, has plans to plant four hundred churches every four years. They call this plan Four-by-Four. The Bethel Church of Indonesia is focused on planting ten thousand churches by the year 2000. The Indonesian Union of Indonesian Baptist Churches set a goal to plant five hundred churches every five years. And also, the Indonesian Baptist Convention plans to plant two hundred churches by the year 2000.

The churches in Indonesia are working diligently to fulfill their dream to plant one church in every village.

Evangelization in Indonesia is not easy because 80 percent of the population is Muslim. It is the fifth largest nation in the world, yet it's still an underdeveloped country. But the Scripture says that nothing is too hard for God.

The evangelization of the whole world in this generation is not an impossible task. We challenge you to work and pray to reach every community in your country in your lifetime.

Last year we held Tacata '88. Four thousand church leaders, pastors, and evangelists from twenty-seven provinces, from different tribes and denominations came together to plan how to reach Indonesia with the gospel. A challenge was given to the pastors and leaders to pray and dream to have one hundred-thousand Christian workers, evangelists, and pastors by the year 2000. That would make fifty thousand villages seem like a small challenge. We want to reach it, and we need your prayers.

You may forget the things I have said, but try to remember us with this simple prayer, "Lord Jesus, bless Indonesia One, One, One."