

Dr. David Cho's fine article comes first in this symposium because, as Latfricasian Christians hear Christ's call to disciple the tribes, castes, classes and kindreds of earth, mistakes are being made. Dr. Cho describes some of these. The opportunities are too great and the times are too urgent to permit us to regard as normal an extended period of trial and error. True, as Eurican missionary societies began, they often went through a long groping period. They made plenty of mistakes, but there is no need to repeat them. Today, new missionary societies - both in Latfricasia and Eurica - ought to learn from and avoid the mistakes of their predecessors.

The missionary movement presents many successful models. Those who would start new missionary societies can study these and determine the ingredients of success. The School of World Mission at Pasadena is offering courses specially designed to enable founders of new missionary societies to enter upon their important ministry with the information they need to have. The subject is enormous and this brief article can only sketch the barest outlines of what missionary societies have found effective. Of course, that very effective missionary campaign recorded in the book of Acts did not use all these basics. Today also it may be that some bands of Christians will propagate the Gospel on models different from that which I describe. If they propagate the Gospel, if they multiply churches of Christ, if they bring multitudes to faith in Jesus Christ, the methods are not important. Notwithstanding all this, I offer the six basics below in the hope that employing them will enable new missionary societies to avoid false starts and waste of precious resources, and to disciple multitudes whom God has prepared to hear His voice.

First, the missionary society must create bands of Christians who burn with desire to tell others about Jesus. Unless groups of Christians who, believing that it is God's unswerving purpose to save men through faith in Jesus Christ, begin to march under the Great Commission, no new missionary society is going to prosper. It is no accident that one of the missionary societies reported in this issue publishes a monthly magazine called "Burn Out". Senders and sent must be willing to burn out for Christ, before a missionary society becomes possible. The biblical base is essential. Utter dedication to Christ is required. Utter clarity as to the purpose is of the essence. New missionary societies must avoid the error of supposing that in a very expensive fashion they are going abroad to help some existing denomination. Missionaries, sent out by the Holy Spirit, go to tell those who have never heard The Name, to multiply churches of Christ where there are yet none.

Second, the missionary society must create a system of support. Granted that under some circumstances the missionary (like Paul) can earn his own living and immigrants to a new city or a new land can establish churches which then grow by near-neighbor evangelism, the weight of evidence favors a business like system of support. It is terribly expensive in life as well as money to send missionaries to some new language area and have them come back in a few months or years because their support has ceased. Fortunately, the first basic is readily parlayed into the second. If senders have the conviction, they readily build substantial ongoing support systems.

Third, most new missionary societies should select reasonably responsive populations. Today these are found in almost every country. The steady goal, to disciple ta ethne and establish ongoing churches, can be carried out in most nations. The new society should therefore spend its first funds in intelligent selection of a suitable field. The rule which guided missionary societies during the nineteenth century - "Go where no one has been before" - is currently not a good rule. Today's rule, specially for beginning societies, is "Find populations in which many want to become Christians, but are not being evangelized. Go there."

Together with finding a suitable population should go sending a band of missionaries. Sending one Asian missionary to one nation and another to another, there to work as a part of a Eurican team in some institution built by Eurican funds, is not a fruitful custom. It forces Asian missionaries to adjust not only to the people being evangelized but to Eurican colleagues. Asian missionary societies should send out bands of Asian missionaries who will find comradeship and spiritual support from fellow workers who come from the same sending churches, eat the same kind of food, speak the same mother tongue, and are free to devote their whole energy to evangelizing those to whom God has sent them.

Fourth, train missionaries before they go out the first time and on their first and second furlough. Furlough means 'a training time' as well as 'a time to report to the comrades who send'. What Dr. Cho says about the urgent need of training is true. The rise of Latfricarian missionary societies by the hundreds must also mean the creation of many Latfricarian missionary training centers. There should be one in every main region of the world. In these, books like Understanding Christian Mission by Herbert Kane, my own Understanding Church Growth and others would be beginning texts; but much more must be written specially to fit Latfricarian conditions. Most missionaries sent out by Indian missionary societies, for example, will not be equipped with jeeps, refrigerators and other appurtenances of a sinfully affluent society. They will be more like the medieval missionary orders composed of men and women pledged to obedience, devotion and poverty. We shall see thousands of barefoot missionaries in the years ahead - and some of them may well come from Eurica. Training systems and books to prepare these to communicate Christ and multiply churches are needed.

Fifth, missionary societies have two tasks. They must keep both the senders and the sent blessed and marching under the great commission. Honest accounts, capable administration and patient understanding, done

from high biblical ground are essential. The missionary society must keep the flame of utter devotion to world evangelization burning brightly at home and abroad.

Sixth, the missionary society must be flexible. Better methods come in. Some fields close. Others open. New missionaries arrive. Adjustments to the new churches, which will be established by the hundreds, are part of the job. All this and much more calls for great flexibility while remaining utterly committed to bringing ta ethne to the obedience of the faith (Romans 16:25). Missionary societies must operate in the light of feedback concerning the degree to which the Gospel has been propagated and churches have been multiplied. That means flexibility.

ARE YOU BEATEN BACK FROM JOYFUL PERSUASION?

A missionary in Italy writes, "I present Christ for the sole sufficient reason that he deserves to be presented."

We think our brother mistakenly uses the words 'sole' and 'sufficient'. Christ does, of course, deserve to be presented. But we present Him that men may find the way to the Father, obtain forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and power to live as sons of God. We evangelize that men may become disciples of Christ and responsible members of His Church. We ought never say: "We care nothing what you do. All we care about is that we present Christ, because He deserves to be presented."

Denying that evangelism is essentially persuasion, commanded by Christ, demonstrated by the apostles, urgently needed by men perishing without the Bread of Heaven, is unnecessary. Christians are needlessly beaten back from a soundly biblical position.

Persuasion, of course, is often not successful. Men are free to reject it. Men may choose the broad way and harden their hearts against God's gracious call. This is tragic for them; but nothing is gained by the evangelist affirming that he presents Christ, never intending persuasion and conversion.

The goal of evangelism is that men believe on Jesus Christ and find eternal life. We are called joyfully to tell others about Jesus, expecting that they will believe on Him and be saved. Let us boldly and obediently carry out our calling.