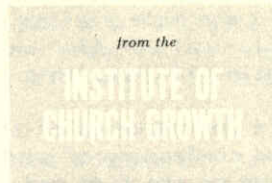


# CHURCH GROWTH BULLETIN



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## *News from the World Congress on Evangelism in Berlin*

### WORLD MISSION LEAPS FORWARD AT BERLIN

#### An Initial Report on The World Congress on Evangelism

Here in Berlin's beautiful Kongresshalle, about a mile from the Wall, more than 1200 leaders of Churches are meeting in the midst of bullet-pocked buildings of World War II to seek God's will concerning the evangelization of the world. Bishops, pastors, evangelists, mission executives, executives of evangelism for whole denominations, field directors, and missionaries will continue to meet daily until November 5 to devise effective ways to bring the nations to faith and obedience.

Leaders of the Churches of Afericasia are prominent including the heads of two large Pentecostal denominations in Chile, Bishop Alexander Mar Theophilis of India, Bishop Chandu Ray of Pakistan, and a dozen bishops from Africa are present. His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie of Ethiopia has delivered a forthright address calling on all Churches to do God's will in regard to the evangelization of the world. He said, "We do not and shall continue to welcome missionaries as they bring the Gospel to those of our subjects who do not yet believe in Jesus Christ, our people for whom our Saviour was sacrificed but have not yet had the benefit of believing on Him."

Perhaps the most significant contribution of this colorful world gathering is its insistence, in session after session, by speaker after speaker, from communion after communion, that evangelism in its clear Biblical sense be taken with life and death seriousness. Dr. Graham said, "Some new definitions of evangelism leave out entirely the winning of men to Jesus Christ...We cannot accept these definitions. Evangelism has social implications, but its primary thrust is winning men to a personal relationship to Christ."

Professor Dr. Johannes Schneider, an eminent New Testament scholar and teacher in one of the great universities in Germany, speaking on "The Authority of Evangelism," said, "Man's fate in time and eternity depends on his accepting or rejecting the offer of redemption. There is no other way of salvation."

The Rev. John R. W. Stott of England is giving us a series of magnificent Bible expositions on the Great Commission. His crystal clear, warm, deep setting

forth of the meaning of Christ's commission should be translated into all the major languages of the world and made available at the earliest opportunity to the national leadership (lay and clerical) of African Churches all over the world. I hope readers of this Bulletin will take this task on themselves at once.

Dr. Harold John Ockenga of the U.S.A. called on all Evangelicals to seek revival through united confessing of sins, united praying for God's blessing and power, united believing on the firm and unshakeable truths of the Bible, and united witnessing. He set forth the Protestant principle of the authority of Scripture and the Bible as the infallible rule of faith and practice as the only possible ground between humanism on the left and Romanism on the right.

Scores of other speakers, most of them nationals, have been stressing various aspects of an evangelism as broad as the human race and as deep as the redemptive purpose of the Triune God. Again and again they have shown us the striking responsiveness of some segment of society. Bishop Stanway of Tanzania told of establishing a church a week for ten years! The baptism of 6000 in Pakistan... 2600 churches in Bandung, Indonesia, in a campaign carried out by 52 churches in that city...plans to put a church within walking distance of every person in Korea...and the doubling of the Protestant population of Colombia in the last six years have been reported.

Mr. Mpaayei, Secretary of the Bible Society in East Africa said, "The opportunities are enormous and the doors wide open...great urban masses are receptive. Governments are keen to cooperate with Churches...all tribal areas welcome Christian work."

The Population Explosion Clock in the main lobby is clicking away sixty to a minute. Started Tuesday afternoon, it clicks every time a person is added to the world population. Each click means "another soul to win." As I write the number added to the world's population in the last three days is 231,879. This increase of population is ten times as great as the increase of Christians. The tick, resounding through the building, reminds delegates of the urgency of winning men to Christ and multiplying churches everywhere.

The School of World Mission and Institute of Church Growth at Fuller Theological Seminary in cooperation with World Vision and under the leadership of Ed Dayton (an aerospace management man devoting his talents to missions) has set up an impressive display of "disciplined planning for mission" which is attracting much attention. The key idea is that we have outgrown the exploratory era of missions, where each mission and Church went forward in ignorance of the others and along independent lines as seemed good to it. The time has come when systematic disciplined planning toward the clear goal of giving every person in the world a chance to say "yes" to Jesus Christ is both possible and urgent. The striking brochure explaining this application of space age technology to missions will be sent to readers of CGB who write for it.

What is the most significant contribution of this Congress to the Church around the world? At this stage it is hard to choose from among many valuable and essential stresses; but let me close with a bold idea set before the Congress by an East African bishop. "We need immediate detailed field research to discover precisely the weak as well as the strong points of the Church of Jesus Christ in Eastern Africa in order to prepare more realistic evangelistic strategy and more effective evangelistic methods. Fact finding which involves much traveling by well placed workers is not only a practical possibility, it is an absolute necessity for carrying out God's will in today's ripe fields."

The full story of the Congress on Evangelism should be sought by all readers of this Bulletin. My brief report is simply a foretaste of a rich feast to come in many magazines and news letters. In the meantime, let us thank the Lord of the Harvest for this timely gathering and dedicate ourselves anew to church planting evangelism.

--Donald McGavran, Berlin, October 28, 1966