Correspondence of Rodger Hedlund
Mr. Stan J. Izon, Director of Communications
Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization
5 Riverside Drive
Rexdale, Ontario M9W 4G3
Canada.

10 December, 1981

Dear Dr. Izon:

It is with some concern that I read the Prayer Calendar entry for 30 November, 1981. Certainly we rejoice in the baptism of such a large number! On the other hand, we have been careful to avoid publicity. This is a sensitive area. This kind of information, if picked up by certain militant organizations, could result in an aggressive programme of anti-Christian propaganda and efforts to "re-convert" the Christians, leading to curtailment of Christian ministry in the area. In other words, we need to exercise caution.

With warm regards and appreciation for the work of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization.

Yours in the Great Commission,

Roger E. Hedlund

cc: Rev. N.J. Gnandia

RH/pm.
December 1st, 1981

Mr. Roger E. Hedlund,
Church Growth Research Centre,
P.O. 768
Kilpauk, Madras 600-010
India.

Thank you Mr. Hedlund

for your letter of December 10 (probably meant November 10th) concerning the notation in our prayer calendar "One Pentecostal pastor reports 8,000 tribals being baptized in Vyara District" - Mon. 30th.

Mr. Izon is recuperating from major surgery. He has read your letter and has asked me to acknowledge it. He regrets that this was printed as he agrees with you that this is a very sensitive area. Thank you for pointing this out to us.

We pray that no negative response will occur because of this and that no curtailment of Christian ministry in the area will happen.

We will try to be more sensitive in these areas.

Thank you for bringing the matter to our attention.

Sincerely yours in Him,

(Mrs) Hazel Andrews

cc: Gottfried Osei-Mensah

/ha

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OF ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
THEME: HEAR THE VOICE OF THE LORD

Day of Prayer for World Evangelization

PENTECOST SUNDAY

30th May 1982
The First Pentecost...

Turbulent days surrounded the climactic death, resurrection, and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ. The events marked the fulfilment of prophecy. Jesus was the Messiah. He had commissioned the believers to preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins to all nations. As Jesus had instructed, they waited in prayer for the anointing of the Holy Spirit. On the Day of Pentecost, all the believers gathered in one place. Suddenly a noise from the sky permeated the whole building and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to proclaim the Gospel immediately, and in one day over three thousand were saved.

Pentecost This Year...

On Pentecost Sunday, May 30, 1982, Christians from all over the world will be gathering together in small and large groups to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, so that the world may hear the voice of the Lord. Intercession will centre on the privilege we have of:

Proclaiming the message of Jesus' Saving Grace to all people everywhere

Sponsorship...

THE DAY OF PRAYER FOR WORLD EVANGELIZATION is being sponsored by:

The Intercession Advisory Group
Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization
Whitefield House, 186 Kennington Park Rd.,
London SE11 4BT, U.K.
or
P.O. Box 1100,
Wheaton, Illinois 60187, U.S.A.

Usefulness...

Its usefulness depends upon you:
1. Make the Day widely known through every available channel in your constituency.
2. Publish this brochure (translate it, if necessary) and distribute it as widely as possible.
"First of all, I urge that petitions, prayers, requests, and thanksgiving be offered to God for all people; for kings and all others who are in authority, that we may live a quiet and peaceable life with all reverence towards God and with proper conduct. This is good and it pleases God our Saviour who wants everyone to be saved and to come to know the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me will do what I do—yes, he will do even greater things, because I am going to the Father." Jesus portrays the potential and He gives us the power to reach it by prayer. "And I will do whatever you ask for in my Name, so that the Father's will be shown through the Son. If you ask me for anything in my Name I will do it" (John 14:12-14). "The prayer of a good man has great power in its effect" (James 5:16).

Life's greatest gift is the privilege of communion with God. If we stop praying—that is, stop our communion with God and cease walking in fellowship in His presence—then the most we end up doing is talking about God. Our concern for others is reduced to gossip. When we pray, we do not try to change God's will, but we are open to discerning His mind and will. Our intercession for others is an act of love on their behalf, for their good, no matter what the distance.

Pray Strategically

Obtain information: Material is available from the Intercession Advisory Group of the Lausanne Committee.

Other information you might want to include: (1) Try to discover where the unreached peoples in your community are and discern how they can be reached. (2) See what work is being done to facilitate better approaches to non-Christian religious groups and atheistic ideologies. What are the specific obstacles on which prayer should be concentrated to achieve a breakthrough? What are the specific needs of these people? (3) Where the church is growing rapidly, find out the specific needs to maximize gains and disciple non-Christians for outreach and productive service. (4) Pray for those in leadership and for the planting of new churches.
strategic events in your local area related to evangelization and find out about other events taking place around the world by using the LCWE Prayer Calendar and other Prayer Bulletins.

You Can Observe the Day of Prayer at...

Church
On Pentecost Sunday, organize a morning prayer service with open prayer and make use of Prayer Bulletins. Use the message in this service for an exposition on the ministry of prayer. In the afternoon, have an activity that motivates the entire church in evangelization. In the evening, bring the church together for an informal time of prayer, praise and worship to God.

Bible Study and Prayer Groups
Give your group insight into the potentials and needs for world evangelization by using the LCWE Prayer Calendar and other Prayer Bulletins. Expand the vision of the Lausanne Covenant. Relate facts from the calendar and the covenant to your own country and particularly to your own local situation.

Home Groups
Organize an informal home discussion-prayer evening. It is a useful way of getting to know friends and neighbors more deeply in a relaxed atmosphere. In the context of general conversation, felt needs become apparent. Listen and discern. Be sensitive. Have an informal time of prayer.

Schools and Universities
Praying together on the campus is important for mutual edification, and creates the potential for strategic evangelism.

Prayer Breakfats
During the week of Pentecost Sunday, organize a prayer breakfast for businessmen or for women, or have a breakfast for people called “A Prayer Happening.” Ask God to effect a spiritual renewal through your personal sphere of influence.
Motives for Praying for World Evangelization

Suggested Sermon Outline

Introduction...

The motives for praying for world evangelization are presented nowhere more powerfully than in the fifth chapter of 2 Corinthians, verses 14 through 21. In the context, the Apostle Paul explains that he is moved by the knowledge that one day he will have to give an accounting of his stewardship upon the earth to his Lord (v. 10). Therefore, he urges men to come to Christ. His life is an open book to the Lord and he wants to be equally open to his readers about the reasons for his strenuous efforts at evangelization (v. 11). He is not here patting himself on the back, but is giving them something to say to those who are more interested in outward appearance than in the sincerity of his heart (v. 12). If people consider him to be a fool in his zeal, they should know he is one for God’s glory; if they think he is acting rationally it is for their salvation’s sake (v. 13). He then proceeds to offer his motives for evangelization:

Gripped by the Love of Christ...

Ever since his Damascus Road experience, Paul has been controlled in all of his actions by the love of Christ expressed in His death upon the cross for all men, even for someone as undeserving as him. There is no greater motive for evangelism—or for prayer—than our love for Christ, which is merely a response to Calvary love (v. 14).

Owned by Christ...

We died to ourselves when Christ died upon the cross. We were bought with a price and have no more ownership rights over our lives. The only life we have is the life we have been given because Christ died and rose again to purchase it for us. We belong to a risen Savior and a living Lord. For this reason, we cannot but relate to men from the perspective of their spiritual condition and need, just as we cannot but view Christ from this side of the cross and the resurrection. Evangelism and prayer for the lost are the supernatural responses of those who once were lost but now are alive in Him (vv. 15, 16).
Transformed by New Life In Christ...

It is not just that we are alive in Christ; it is that we have *new* life in Christ. Nothing is clearer to a child of God than the contrast between his old life without Christ and his new life in Christ. So sharp is the difference that it is as if everything he formerly knew or thought of as life has died. The only perspective that has reality for the believer is the one he has gained since conversion. Once we have tasted newness of life in Christ, have known His forgiveness, have experienced the power of His Spirit, we are never the same again and are impelled to share the good news of this new life with others. We pray for their conversion and for the Lord to send harvesters into His harvest field because we cannot bear the thought of men continuing in darkness when they could experience the light that a personal relationship, by faith, with Jesus Christ brings (v. 17).

Commissioned as Ambassadors of Christ...

Three times in the space of three verses, Paul declares our role and responsibility as the officially appointed representatives of God to minister the Gospel to a lost world: God "gave us the ministry of reconciliation," He "committed to us the word of reconciliation," so that "we are ambassadors for Christ." Our mission is to call upon all men to make peace with our King, to exchange their sin for Christ's righteousness so they too can experience God's love and the new life in Christ that we enjoy (vv. 18-21).

Conclusion...

If we are ambassadors of Christ charged by God Himself to bring the word of reconciliation to all men, how then ought we to pray? No better response can be found than the exhortation to prayer enjoined by Paul while he was in prison for Christ: "With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak." (Ephesians 6:18-20, NASB)
Dear praying Friend,

Prayerlessness leads to powerlessness. James 4:2 tells us "we have not because we ask not." If the church has been negligent in any one area, with few exceptions it has probably been in the area of prayer. God seems to be reminding us in dramatic ways today that our greatest resource for evangelizing the world, meeting the needs of men, and changing nations, is prayer.

The Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization realizes the great importance of united and specific prayer; thus, they have called Pentecost Sunday an annual Day of Prayer for World Evangelization. No other day of the year is so widely set aside to unite believers to pray for world evangelization.

The Intercession Advisory Group wishes to be of help to you in every way possible as you promote May 30, 1982, as a day of prayer in your church or group. The December 1981 and March 1982 issues of the Information Bulletin carry prayer articles that you may use as resource sermon material, in addition to the material in the enclosed brochure and sermon outline. The sermon outline was prepared by Dr. Ed Pauley, Vice President for Academic Affairs of the International School of Theology. We trust that these will be helpful to you in making your preparations easier and your efforts more effective.

We would be interested in some of the results you experience in praying, preaching, and promoting this day. Any creative ideas you have successfully implemented would be of great interest to us. Please send us any suggestions or outlines which we may be able to share another year.

May God bless you as we join as brothers and sisters in praying and then in action to reach the world for Christ in our generation.

Yours for united, specific prayer,

Mrs. Vonette Bright
Chairman,
Intercession Advisory Group
Rev. Gottfried Osei-Mensah, 
13 June, 1982.
Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, 
186, Kennington Park Road, 
London SE11 4BT, 
United Kingdom.

Dear Rev. Osei-Mensah:

It was with considerable interest that I read of the renewed emphasis of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization Executive Committee on cross-cultural evangelism. I heartily endorse the Strategy Working Group's recognition of the significance of thinking in terms of evangelizing distinguishable "people groups." The June 3, 1982, WEIS news release correctly points out that this concept has particular importance in Asia where most of world's unreached peoples are located.

In light of this emphasis I would welcome a further international congress on evangelization before or around 1990. I confess that I have been somewhat critical toward a proliferation of large conferences (see the conclusion of my ROOTS OF THE GREAT DEBATE IN MISSION). Presumably the next one will build on the work of Lausanne 1974 with an escalated research from the Two-Thirds World. Would it be possible for the next congress to meet somewhere in Asia or Africa?

Yours in Christ,

Roger E. Medlund.

cc: Mr. Stan Izen, Director of Communications (LCWE-Canada), 
Dr. D.A. McGavran

RM: pm
July 21, 1982

Dr. R.E. Hedlund
Church Growth Research Centre
Post Bag 768
Kilpauk
Madras - 600 010
INDIA

Dear Dr. Hedlund,

Thank you very much for your encouraging response to the LCWE Executive Committee's recent decision to pursue ever more vigorously the people group approach to world evangelization. A proposal on the long range planning of the Lausanne ministry will be put before the full Lausanne Committee meeting scheduled for January 17-22, 1983. When approved the plan will help focus more sharply the ministry of Lausanne and its Working Groups on reaching the unreached people.

Your suggestion that the next international congress be held in Asia or Africa will be borne in mind when the time comes to plan for one. Thailand was similarly selected as the venue for COWE in 1980 out of a sincere desire to be close to where the bulk of the unreached peoples live their lives.

Wishing you the Lord's strength in your important ministry.

Truly yours in Christ,

Gottfried Osei-Mensah
Executive Secretary

GOM:jvr

cc: Mr. Stan Izon
    Dr. D.A. McGavran
Sender’s name and address

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Whitefield House

186 Kenning Park Road

London SE11 4BT

UK

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