

FLAME

World Evangelism, World Methodist Council

WORLDWIDE EVANGELISM EMPHASIS LAUNCHED AT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

A bold new plan to intensify the evangelistic outreach of Methodists around the world was launched at the *World Methodist Evangelism Leadership Summit for the Methodist Movement in the Americas* held in Havana, Cuba in January, 2004.

Dr. H. Eddie Fox, World Director of World Methodist Evangelism, told the delegates to the Summit, "Our global Methodist/Wesleyan movement is uniquely equipped to reach out and share the love of Jesus Christ to a world that urgently needs it. The movement is trained and motivated. The movement is infused with the power of the Holy Spirit and ready to experience the greatest revival in the Christian church in three centuries!"

More than 120 leaders from twenty countries of North America, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean — including seventeen bishops and heads of churches representing 26 Wesleyan/Methodist denominations — came together in Cuba to finalize plans for a two-year, unified, World Methodist Evangelism Emphasis within the Wesleyan/Methodist denominations in 130 countries around the world.

The Evangelism Leadership Summit was held in Cuba so the evangelism leaders from throughout the Americas

more than 200 adults, and witnessed what many recognized as "the greatest movement of the Holy Spirit since the early Wesleyan revivals!"

"We are excited that so many important leaders have all come together for the purpose of launching a worldwide evangelism emphasis," said Dr. Maxie Dunnam, Chairperson of World Evangelism, World Methodist Council. "It is our hope that the revival that has begun here in Cuba will spread throughout the Methodist Movement around the world."

The plans for the World Methodist Evangelism Emphasis 2004-2006, initially developed by World Evangelism's Regional Secretaries, are being finalized in a series of Evangelism Leadership Summits in all of the world's continents in response to a resolution passed by the World Methodist Council meeting in 2001 in Brighton, England which called "the Methodist people around the world to prayer and fasting and to spreading the good news of Jesus Christ."

At the beginning of the Summit in Cuba, Dr. Fox presented the delegates with the initial plans for the global Evangelism Emphasis and called on them to further refine and expand the

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That the
world
may know
Jesus Christ!

WORLD METHODIST EVANGELISM EMPHASIS 2004-6



¡Que el
mundo
pueda
conocer a
Jesuchristo!

ÉNFASIS DEL EVANGELISMO MUNDIAL METODISTA 2004-6

could personally witness the explosive, joy-filled revival happening in the Cuban Methodist Church. During the seven-day Summit, the evangelism leaders frequently experienced the vitality of the vibrant music and dance of Cuban worship, attended a joyous and deeply moving mass baptism of

**THE MOMENT IS URGENT
OUR MOVEMENT IS UNIQUE
AND OUR MISSION IS UNITED...**

**“That the world may know
Jesus Christ!”**

On the day of Epiphany, 2004, one hundred leaders from South America, Central America, the Caribbean and North America gathered for eight days in Havana, Cuba for the Evangelism Leadership Summit for the Methodist Movement in the Americas. This historic meeting took place in Cuba where the Methodist Movement is alive, vital and growing in order to hold fast and strengthen the doctrine, spirit and discipline with which our movement began more than 250 years ago. The Summit expanded and further developed the plans for the World Methodist Evangelism Emphasis 2004-2006 outlined in this newsletter.



THE URGENCY OF THE MOMENT

There has never been a moment of greater urgency for the spreading of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. As the Church was born in a mission situation, the Church today finds itself in a mission situation. Our world desperately needs healing, hope and salvation. Our world needs to know Jesus Christ.

THE UNIQUENESS OF THE MOVEMENT

The Ministry of World Methodist Evangelism, which began more than thirty years ago, is committed to enabling and strengthening the World Methodist Movement to do the work of evangelism, to carry out the ministry fully in the world. Our vision is to see the Methodist Movement alive, vibrant, growing and yearning to spread, proclaim and "publish abroad the wonderful Name."

THE UNITY IN OUR MISSION

We are sure of our mission to "Offer Christ Today," and we are committed to evangelizing the gospel by word, deed and sign on every continent. May we, the Worldwide Methodist Movement pray, work and walk together in the coming months so **“That the world may know Jesus Christ!”**

H. Eddie Fox, World Director

WORLD METHODIST

WORLD METHODIST EVANGELISM EMPHASIS 2004-2006

GOAL: To train, equip and motivate thousands in the Wesleyan/Methodist family to share the love of Jesus and invite more than one million new believers in 2004-6!

At the World Methodist Conference in Brighton, England, a resolution was passed which called Methodists to prayer and fasting and to spreading the good news of Christ Jesus. In response to this, the World Evangelism Division of the World Methodist Council is launching a series of activities and events in 2004, 2005 and 2006 aimed specifically at further empowering members of the Wesleyan/Methodist denominations around the world to reach out and share the love of Jesus Christ. Working through the existing network of Officers and Regional Secretaries, World Evangelism will be coordinating the following activities and events around the world, **“That the world may know Jesus Christ!”**

That the
world
may know
Jesus Christ! **2004: THE YEAR OF
PREPARATION**

LOGO AND THEME

GOAL: To provide a visual logo and theme around which all Wesleyan/Methodist denominations and local churches can rally for the World Methodist Evangelism Emphasis 2004-6.

A visual symbol incorporating the theme of the emphasis – **That the world may know Jesus Christ!** – is being developed in both black and white and color and in all languages necessary for use in the 130 countries with denominations active in the World Methodist Council.

EVANGELISM LEADERSHIP SUMMITS

GOAL: To inform, equip, and motivate key Methodist/Wesleyan leaders for intentional evangelism ministry in their geographic areas.

A series of Evangelism Leadership Summits will be held around the world in 2004-5. Focusing on the theme, **“That the world may know Jesus Christ!”** each of these summits will bring together Wesleyan/Methodist leaders to reflect on

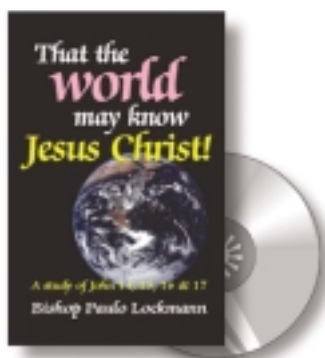
EVANGELISM EMPHASIS 2004-2006

the theology and methodology of evangelism programming in their particular areas of the world and to plan specific events and activities aimed at announcing the good news of Jesus Christ to persons in their part of the world. These Summits/Seminars are being conducted by the World Methodist Evangelism Institute.

“THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW JESUS CHRIST” BIBLE STUDY

GOAL: To encourage thousands in the Wesleyan/Methodist family to study the teaching of Jesus in John 14, 15, 16, 17.

A study of Chapters 14, 15, 16, and 17 of the Gospel According to John, written by Bishop Paulo Lockmann of Brazil, will be reproduced in many languages for local church and personal Bible studies during the first half of 2005. The study is focused on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and the call of every disciple to reach out in love, “That the world may know Jesus Christ!” The study and a leader's guide for small groups is being published by World Evangelism in many languages and will also be available on CD Rom for use around the world. The study will be available worldwide by late 2004 at www.World-Methodist.org.



Bishop Lockmann presented the new Bible Study to evangelism leaders at the Cuba Summit.

WORLDWIDE FAITH-SHARING LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS



Theology students learn Faith Sharing in Jakarta, Indonesia.

GOAL: To equip more than 100,000 Methodists around the world with the skills and principles of Faith Sharing.

In 2004 and early 2005, a worldwide series of Leadership Training Workshops will be held to prepare Faith-Sharing trainers to replicate the training to local groups after Pentecost 2005.

The Faith-Sharing text book, the continuing development of the Faith-Sharing New Testament in indigenous languages, and Regional Seminars of the WME Institute will be utilized in the training of these worldwide Faith Sharers.

In addition, Faith-Sharing training for individuals is being developed as an interactive training program that will be available to persons around the world on the Internet and CD Rom.



2005: THE YEAR OF PROCLAMATION

WESLEYAN PATTERN OF PRAYER AND FASTING

GOAL: To encourage millions of Methodists to follow the Wesleyan Pattern of Prayer and Fasting in praying for a World Pentecost and Christian Faith-Sharing.

The Wesleyan Pattern of Prayer and Fasting will be encouraged around the world during the Lenten seasons of 2005 and 2006. Through the provision of resources and the network of World Evangelism Regional Secretaries, Methodists in 130 countries will be encouraged to go without solid food after their evening meal each Thursday until mid-afternoon each Friday. And, they will be encouraged to commit this time to prayer and witness “That the world may know Jesus Christ!”



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and register to receive regular information about
events, activities and resources!

“TEN DAYS OF FAITH” CELEBRATIONS

PENTECOST TO ALDERSGATE DAY, 2005

GOAL: To gather, train, and motivate thousands of Methodists around the world in a ten-day series of celebrations to promote unity in the Methodist family, stimulate evangelism activities and provide high-visibility events to generate enthusiasm and commitment at local church levels around the world.

For ten consecutive days between Pentecost and Aldersgate in 2005, the Methodist Movement around the world will experience ten days of high visibility celebrations focused on the theme “That the world may know Jesus Christ!”

Organized through the network of World Evangelism Regional Secretaries around the world, high-visibility celebrations will be held around the world, all focused on training Faith-Sharers, equipping leaders to launch evangelism ministries, providing training workshops for local church evangelism ministries, motivating delegates to proclaim Jesus Christ, and gathering Methodists together for celebrations of the power of the Holy Spirit.

Each event will be linked together and each region will be encouraged to develop specific programs of evangelistic outreach to follow the high-visibility celebrations. Even though the events will follow similar plans worldwide, each will be designed locally to meet the specific needs of the region in which they are being held.

LOCAL CHURCH CELEBRATIONS

During the same “Ten Days of Faith,” local churches around the world will be encouraged to hold their own celebrations similar to the high-visibility events being held internationally. Various Methodist/Wesleyan organizations (women’s groups, men’s groups, church school classes, etc.) will also be encouraged to participate. Extensive guides for these “Ten Days of Faith” celebrations will be produced and made available in both published and digital form to encourage involvement during this period of emphasis.

The devotionals in *The Upper Room* for this period will focus on the theme, “That the world may know Jesus Christ!” and other devotional publications around the world are being contacted to do the same.

10
DAYS OF
FAITH

That the
world
may know
Jesus Christ!

8th INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN YOUTH CONFERENCE ON EVANGELISM

GOAL: To train and motivate several hundred young leaders between the ages of 17 and 30 from all areas of the world in the ministry of evangelism.

The Eighth International Christian Youth Conference on Evangelism is scheduled for July 19-26, 2005 in Rio, Brazil as part of the World Methodist Evangelism Emphasis. The Emphasis logo and theme, “That the world may know Jesus Christ,” will be incorporated into the youth conference. Young people, ages 17-30, will be invited from all areas of the world to spend a week being challenged to become evangelism leaders in their own countries. Today, many of the evangelism leaders around the world are persons who made their original commitments at one of the previous International Christian Youth Conferences.



Dr. Eddie Fox (second from left) and Brazilian Bishop Paulo Lockmann meet with young people hosting the Eighth International Christian Youth Conference on Evangelism to be held in Rio, Brazil, July 19-26, 2005.

EXPANDING THE ORDER OF THE FLAME ACROSS THE GLOBE

GOAL: To train and motivate hundreds of young pastors and spouses around the world to do the work of evangelists in their areas.

As part of the worldwide Evangelism Emphasis, the Order of the FLAME, launched eight years ago in North America, will be expanded to every continent beginning with Africa and Australia in 2005 and 2006. This will be aimed at building a worldwide network of intense, trained, and committed young Methodist evangelism leaders in every area of the globe. Members of the Order of the FLAME are selected young pastors and spouses from all Wesleyan/Methodist denominations who attend an intense training seminar before being received into the Order to become evangelism leaders in their home conferences. Members of the Order of the FLAME covenant to “do the work of an evangelist, to carry out the ministry fully.”

PROVIDING NEW WORLDWIDE EVANGELISM RESOURCES

GOAL: To develop a publishing/distribution system to provide evangelism resources around the world.

Beginning in 2004 and continuing through the Evangelism Emphasis, World Methodist Evangelism will publish and distribute through both direct mail and e-commerce, a growing number of evangelism resources in multiple languages.



MULTIPLYING THE WITNESSES OF CHRIST JESUS

Pentecost 2005 to Pentecost 2006

GOAL: To encourage thousands of Methodist People around the world to “gracefully share the good news of Christ Jesus through word, deed and sign” climaxing at the World Methodist Conference in Korea.

Following intense Faith-Sharing training and the powerful “Ten Days of Faith” celebrations, Methodists around the world will be called to express their faith with special intensity during the year-long period from Pentecost, 2005 to Pentecost, 2006.

PERSONAL AND GROUP WITNESSING

By utilizing the network of Regional Secretaries and other evangelism leaders around the world and by providing new local church and personal evangelism resources, Methodists will be equipped, motivated and organized to be witnesses for Christ Jesus across the globe. With the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and the resources and organization of World Methodism, persons who are confident and competent in sharing the good news of Christ Jesus will reach out in 130 nations.

REGIONAL EVANGELISM MINISTRIES

Every region of the World Methodist family will be encouraged to launch special local and regional evangelism projects during this period—all under the umbrella of the World Methodist Evangelism Emphasis, 2004-2006. Each

project will be chosen, planned and resourced locally to fit local needs and reflect local resources and will be enhanced through the use of the World Methodist Evangelism Emphasis 2004-2006 logo and theme. A range of resources to assist and guide this mass witness will be made available in multiple languages by World Evangelism in both published and digital format.

WORLDWIDE EVANGELISTIC PREACHING MISSIONS

GOAL: To encourage three-day evangelistic preaching missions in every Methodist/Wesleyan church leading up to the World Methodist Conference in July, 2006.

A package of resources is being developed so that any Methodist/Wesleyan Church in any country will be able to hold a powerful three-day evangelistic preaching/teaching event during the time between Pentecost 2005 and the opening of the World Methodist Conference in Seoul, Korea in July, 2006.

Each of these local church events will be focused on “God’s Four Mighty Acts” (the Christmas Incarnation, the Good Friday Atonement, the Easter Resurrection, and the Pentecost coming of the Holy Spirit) in worship services on Friday evening, Saturday evening, Sunday morning and Sunday evening. Each service will be evangelistic in nature and accompanied by Bible study and youth events, all focused on the same themes as the the primary preaching services.

Resource packets to support the organization, leadership and promotion of these missions are being produced by World Evangelism.



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WORLDWIDE EVANGELISM EMPHASIS LAUNCHED *Continued from Page 1*

plans with special emphasis on the needs within the Americas.

Worldwide, the Methodist movement is currently growing at the rate of more than 1,000,000 new believers annually and the plans for the worldwide Evangelism Emphasis include a wide range of activities and events aimed at substantially increasing this growth rate in 2004-2006.

Developed around the theme, "That the world may know Jesus Christ!" the plans for the World Methodist Evangelism Emphasis 2004-2006 are outlined on the inside pages of this newsletter.

Some of the highest moments for the delegates to the Evangelism Leadership Summit involved interaction with the Cuban Methodists. During the Summit, clergy and bishops from all areas of the Americas joined Cuban pastors in baptizing more than 200 adults in a single outdoor ceremony filled with vibrant music, dance and prayer. Observers commented on the "explosion of joy and celebration of the Holy Spirit" that was reflected in the faces of the hundreds gathered for the celebration.

The baptism followed the dedication of ten "EvangeBicys" for Cuban missionary pastors. Now, 500 EvangeBicys from World Evangelism are rolling across Cuba!

On Sunday, the delegates spread across Havana to worship in Cuban Methodist Churches. In many churches the delegates served as guest preachers or liturgists and, in most cases, the delegates from throughout the Americas gathered with the local congregations for celebrational meals after worship. On Sunday evening, the entire

Summit gathered with more than 2,000 Cuban Methodists at Bishop Ricardo Pereira's church for an evangelistic pageantry service with preaching by AME Bishop John Bryant, praying, singing, and dancing.

In connection with the Summit, a

Church in Cuba. The delegation expressed its thanksgiving for Cuban hospitality for the World Methodist Evangelism meeting and received affirmation that further interaction between the Cuban church and other churches is possible.



Above, Dr. George Freeman (left), General Secretary of the World Methodist Council and Dr. Eddie Fox, World Methodist Evangelism Director, join 52 other clergy from twenty countries in the Americas in assisting local Cuban pastors at a mass baptism of 200 new believers. Below, worshippers paraded the flags of all 20 participating nations at a joyful evangelistic service on Sunday evening at the World Methodist Evangelism Leadership Summit in Havana, Cuba.

delegation of World Methodist leaders was invited to meet with Lic. Caridad Diego, the Director of Religious Affairs for the Cuban Government, to discuss the ministry of the Methodist

WORLD METHODIST EVANGELISM FLAME March, 2004

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