

CHAPTER 1

CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

What Happened at Edinburgh

Rather than write a report ourselves, we have formed a composite of four reports which were published in journals of well known organizations. They are identified as follows:

A report by Leslie Brierley in “The Wider Look” (TWL)

A report by Ben Jennings in *Global Church Growth Bulletin* (GCGB)

A report by Gerald Swank for Evangelical Missions Information Service (EMIS)

A report in *Mission Frontiers* (MF)

Historic Days

We have been living in historic days. “Melbourne 1980” discussing “Your Kingdom”; The Thailand “Consultation on World Evangelization” centering on “How Shall They Hear?”; and finally “The World Consultation on Frontier Missions” or Edinburgh 80,” gathered round *A Church for Every People by the Year 2000*—all in 1980! Seventy years after the first World Missionary Conference, when missionary leaders met together to study the effects the “Great Century” had on the unreached peoples of the world! A comparison of the situation in 1910 with that in 1980 should give rise to echoing paeans of praise to God for such marvels.

Yet, as Dr. Rigby, Chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee said in his welcoming letter, we were gathering to *make* history, not merely to review it! Did we? Only the future will give the full answer but we shall make a brief attempt. For the record we include a *Statement of Objectives* as circulated over a year ago:

1. To share the results of contemporary research and experience concerning the world’s Hidden Peoples: those cultural and linguistic sub-groups, urban or rural, for whom there is yet no indigenous community of believing Christians able to evangelize their own people.

2. To stimulate Protestant evangelical missionary agencies to accept specific responsibility for reaching the 16,750 Hidden Peoples by the year 2000.
3. To facilitate the necessary strategy, planning and action to achieve this goal, recognizing that the majority of the Hidden Peoples are currently inaccessible to conventional missionary work.
4. To provide opportunity for leaders of non-Western and Western missionary agencies to help one another by fellowship in praying, thinking, and planning together.
5. To stimulate spiritual enrichment, enlargement of missionary vision, and organized frontier missionary efforts by bringing together participants from as many parts of the world as possible.
6. To lay the groundwork for future conferences of a similar nature.

In the writers view, we achieved all of these goals, not perhaps in the full sense some of us anticipated, but sufficiently to create and fan a flame of fellowship around, and focus more purposefully and meaningfully on the watch word given, we believe, by the Lord: "A Church for every people by the year 2000." (TWL)

Focus

The Thailand Conference brought together outstanding evangelical leadership, the opinion makers, including a wide spectrum of pastors, denominational officials, evangelists, and evangelism specialists, as well as a number of mission leaders. All of the non-Christians of the world, including nominal Christians, were the concern of that conference. At Edinburgh, the focus was narrower: concentrating exclusively on frontier missions—those populations where there is not yet any church at all. The meeting was composed of delegates sent by mission agencies.(MF)

Attendance

The earlier meeting in 1910 was larger in the number of people present, but was nowhere nearly as representative since not a single non-Western agency was represented (the only three known to exist at that time were left out by accident).

At Edinburgh 1980, three out of the four major plenary addresses in the morning sessions consisted of technical papers which were assigned to the Third World mission leaders. The largest Third World agencies present—having about 100 or more missionaries—were the Evangelical Missionary Society of Nigeria, the Friends Missionary Prayer Band of India, the Indonesian Fellowship and an Evangelical missionary group (A.M.E.N.) of Peru. (See Appendix II for a list of agencies and representatives.)

In proportion to the size of the country represented, the largest delegation (40 people) was from the United Kingdom, while the U.S., with a population

four times as large, had only 84. Sixty-nine came from Asia, 35 from Europe outside the United Kingdom, 24 from Africa, nine from Latin America and three from Canada.(GCCB)

Was this meeting necessary? Did it accomplish goals not accomplished by Pattaya? Should it have happened? These were questions asked by some U.S. agencies which were not represented. They hoped this Consultation was only preliminary so that a later one could be planned in which they could participate.

Perhaps it was that. The number of delegates could easily have been three times as many, though only two could officially represent an agency. And yet, under the providence of God, this meeting was as it should have been.

Why? 1) Non-Western agencies (they reject the term “Third World” as being a bit derogatory) were able to meet on a par with the older Western agencies in a way which would not have been possible had they been overwhelmingly outnumbered. 2) Of the major strategy addresses given in the morning working sessions, only one was given by a Westerner, in the absence of Dr. George Samuel of India, unable to attend at the last minute. These addresses represented a lot of creative thinking, and need to be studied by all mission executives, both East and West, and their ideas implemented wherever applicable. 3) For the first time, the newer agencies became known to each other and to the older agencies.(GCCB)

The Inaugural Meeting

The Deputy Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh warmly welcomed the WCFM and ISCFM (students) to the city. He reminded the audience of the long connection of the city with Missions. The Rev. David Lyon, General Secretary of the Overseas Council of the Church of Scotland, prayed that “Edinburgh-80” might be used of God as greatly as was the first World Conference held 70 years before in that city. Rev. Richard Fry, U.K. Home Director of Wycliffe Bible Translators Inc. (which played a large part in the practical aspects of the Consultation’s task) brought greetings on behalf of the Evangelical Missionary Alliance in the absence of Mr. Ernest Oliver in Hong Kong. He reminded us that “the mustard seed is indeed becoming the greatest of all herbs.” For, since the illustrious career of William Carey, the Church had indeed grown and spread in a marvelous way.

Rev. Larry Allmon, Chairman of the Convening Committee declared the Consultation open. He recognized it as “a unique occasion paralleled only by the great gathering of 1910.” He explained, “We have come together to face side by side the task that lies before us. That task which sees ourselves as the reality and the possibility of becoming Christ’s instruments in reaching the remaining people-groups of the earth, planting in each one a viable, reproducing church by the end of this era—the year 2000—is that goal. This week we shall be praying in faith that all that we do will be aimed to realization of that goal under the mov-

ing of the Holy Spirit of God...We must not forget: Who it is that has brought us together... It is not a committee but the Sovereign God.

At the chairman's bidding, we rose and acknowledged God to be "The Committee Chairman, the Patient Leader, the Shepherd, the Lord of Harvest...." The preliminaries, inspiring and impressive, were over. The time had come for the "keynote message" by Dr. Michael Griffiths, Principal of the London Bible College, former General Director of the Overseas Missionary Fellowship.

He warned us he was "going to major largely on some of the difficulties and hindrances which stand in the way of the Gospel today." He then plunged into a listing and explanation of the deficiencies of the Church in its missionary outreach today. (TWL) (See *Inaugural Address*, Chapter 3—Ed.)

Student Conference

A novel addition to the excitement of the conference was a sister consultation composed of 180 students from all over the world—the International Student Consultation on Frontier Missions—which overlapped the plenary sessions of the WCFM, but had a day and a half of additional sessions both before and after the main consultation as well as separate meetings every afternoon.

The young people adopted the same consultation goal, "A Church for Every People by the Year 2000"; and demonstrated a zeal, a vision, and a competence which bodes well for world mission leadership and specifically for the goal defined for the year 2000. (MF)

On Saturday morning Brad Gill, from the Student Consultation, reported to us. He said that the genius for this entire event has been the convergence of the youth with the mission leaders. At times it had been awkward meeting in separate sessions, but it was remarkable and significant that on the final day, similar goals were in view in each of the sessions. He outlined their goals as: (1) The students would take initiative in seminars, universities and colleges throughout their countries to spread the news of our watchword. (2) The convergence with the mission world leaders was significant to the students. They had much opportunity to interact with them. (3) They are looking for 200,000 new missions recruits for church planting and pioneer missionary work in the next twenty years. (EMIS)

The Structure of the Consultation

Seven aspects of the Consultation formed the structure for our thinking, praying and action.

1. **The Research Unit**, under the leadership of Allan Starling of Gospel Recordings, was available to delegates throughout the Consultation. Information on Hidden Peoples, drawn from the combined resources of Missions Advanced Research and Communications Center (M.A.R.C.), G.R., and Wycliffe Bible Translators (W.B.T.) was used as the basis for answering specific enquiries. (TWL)

This index, called “Peoples file,” runs 2,700 pages, covering 168,000 items, mainly different languages and people names, many referring to the same populations. At the conference, delegates could obtain 12 celluloid microfiche cards containing the entire index for just \$12. The project was rushed to completion in time for the meeting by Allan Starling using the computer facilities of World Vision and the U. S. Center for World Mission. (MF)

2. **The Prayer Unit**, led by Patrick Johnstone, author of “Operation World,” functioned throughout the Consultation. Each morning Patrick led a prayer session on specific topics related to the subject of the day. (TWL)

3. **Frontier Mission Strategy** was discussed each morning. Dr. Ralph Winter first explained the vision God had given him of establishing a viable, witnessing, reproducing church in the midst of each distinct people–group, as a Pauline first step to the completion of the task Jesus entrusted to His Church. As the Rev. George Samuel could not be with us, on the second morning Dr. Winter continued his explanation. On Thursday Dr. Petrus Octavianus of the Indonesian Missionary Fellowship spoke on “Missionary Structures.” From 20 years’ experience of building an integrated structure, combining the resources of several mission–groups, both Western and non–Western, he was able to speak of INTEGRATION as a viable method, already tried and found to be effective. On Friday, Rev. Panya Baba of the Evangelical Mission Society of Nigeria spoke on “Frontier Missionaries.”

Each of these papers was followed by a response by chosen panelists, after which the subject was open to ‘the floor.’ Unfortunately, we didn’t have time to address ourselves adequately to the important questions raised. (TWL)

4. Task Forces and Group Studies

After a slow start during which the groups got organized, the participants found the smaller group sessions very beneficial. The West Africa group, for example, began describing the people groups, sharing with each other what was being done and what yet remained to be done among certain ones, such as the Fulani and the Mandingo. This was followed through on the second day with development of other groups as well. Delegates also had opportunity to become familiar with the MARC research tool, the questionnaire for identifying people groups. Everyone was urged to make use of this tool to identify all the people groups possible in the areas where they came from. This will enable us to have a more complete file in the future. (EMIS)

Task Forces Recommendations

Each Task Force Group submitted the following recommendations as immediate steps toward establishing a church for every people:

1. **Development** of Third World Agencies: The third world people on this task force felt that they themselves could do a more effective job of evangeliz-

ing the Third World than western missionaries. The group agreed, however, that western support of training programs would be helpful. An interchange between missionaries was also called for.

2. **Avoiding Overlap** in Adoption and Penetration of Peoples: This group recommended that a) Each agency make an unofficial estimate of the number of hidden people groups they might be able to enter by 1985. b) That agencies compile data to be consolidated with other data available. c) That missionaries be informed of where to file the data and how to get the information they need. d) Sister Centers combine all their data for the use of everyone.

3. **Sharing Experience** in Training Missionaries: This group felt that Western and Third World agencies could have complimentary roles in training. Western missions can supply the historical and theological training, while third world agencies can provide cultural, linguistic and “grass roots” training. The task force called for facilitation of exchange between agencies from a possible continuation committee.

4. **Development of Sister Centers** of Mission: This should be done to research hidden peoples, develop and coordinate resources, raise missionary vision both in churches and students, and broaden cooperation in strategy and planning.

5. **Cooperation in Pooling** World Resources: Models of cooperation already in existence were considered. It was recommended that action be taken at this Consultation to facilitate the coordination at the regional level for sharing information, and to delegate regional representatives who could promote cooperation in outreach to frontier mission fields.

6. **Relations of Local Churches** and Agencies in Reaching Unreached Peoples: The vital role of the local church is missing from the Consultation. A problem clearly exists on both the level of the church and of the sending agencies. The group would like to convene again to make some recommendations to the full Consultation. (EMIS)

5. The Special Interest Meetings

These were of various types to meet the diverse needs of delegates. I was able to attend only two such groups—that for Unreached Peoples Research led by Allan Starling of Gospel Recordings, and Mission Centers for World Evangelization, led by Ben Jennings, Exec. Vice-President International Missions Advance, a group working from the U.S. Center for World Mission campus.

- (a) **Unreached Peoples Research.** Here we were told of the exciting plan for M.A.R.C., W.B.T. and G.R. to combine their information on ethnic and linguistic groups, making it available on microfiche to those who can use such information. On the “ANIMIST” evening we were dramatically made aware of the need for such information. Who will ever forget George Cowan’s ‘audio-visual’ as he flicked open a

print-out of the linguistic data relevant to the 5,103 language groups listed in ETHNOLOGUE! Sheet after sheet, each bearing 66 names of ethnic groups and their need of Bible translation, fell one by one in a cascade to the floor. Many of these names would be those of Hidden Peoples. Many more would be people-groups without a single word of the Scriptures. It was a convincing demonstration of the enormity of the remaining task.

- (b) **The Research Centres:** A Ring of RESEARCH for the Hidden Peoples: The concept of “sister-centres” had already been aired among us before the Consultation, so we were glad to meet others who had either begun such centres already, or who were eager to begin. There is a strong reluctance on the part of our American brethren to have such centres linked as subsidiaries of the U.S. Center for World Mission. However, they and we do see the advantage of forging strong links between us for the gathering of correct, well-documented information on Hidden Peoples from the ‘grass roots’. Equally, such links would be useful for the dissemination—as pleaded for by Michael Griffiths—of better information more adequately to churches across the world

The Sister Centres would handle:

- (a) Research—on the Hidden Peoples, their location, description and groups available to reach them, etc.
- (b) Resources—the sharing of facilities, methods, approaches, etc., which other mission agencies could use effectively. The recruitment of personnel for the ongoing task would come within the purview of this aspect.
- (c) Strategy—agencies would plan together the penetration of given areas, groups, peoples etc. The Institutes of Tribal, Hindu, Muslim and Chinese Peoples already created within the USCWM would play a part here.
- (d) Training—better ways of utilizing the facilities already available, co-ordination of efforts etc.
- (e) Prayer—an “Institute of Prayer” (as yet in embryo form)—building the prayer interest of the Church in Missions.

6. The Public Presentations

The splendid evening meetings were open to delegates of both Consultations and to the general Christian public. Each night was given over to the study of a different “world religion.” (a) *The Animist World*, (b) *The Muslim World*, (c) *The Hindu World*, (d) *The Billion Strong Chinese World*.(TWL) (See Chapters 5 through 8—ED.)

7. The Bible Messages

Dr. Mark Hanna had a hard time packing it all in as he presented the “Biblical Basis of Missions.” Who is Dr. Hanna? He turned out to be a rare personality—a Phoenician Bible Teacher! Dr. Hanna thought we needed a *reformation*, not a Reformation!

The Transmigration of Peoples

A major challenge of his daily teaching concerned the tremendous opportunity God was giving to this generation by what he termed the transmigration of Peoples. What is God saying to the Church through the phenomenon of our day? About one quarter of those who will be leaders of the world’s nations are now studying in the West. In the 1990s some of these men will, by simply signing their name, be able to expel all of the expatriate missionaries within their country. We never know, he insisted, how the course of history can be changed by the way we treat those who may turn out to be key individuals, when they come within our orbit as they are now doing. He told the story of a church in Kansas City which had the foresight to designate a host-family to each foreign student studying in their city university—there are 250 such students. Last year, through this hospitable gesture, there were 70 converts from among them! Another aspect of this transmigration trend was the gap being built up between the increasingly educated leadership of the development countries and the leadership of the churches in those countries. “This will be one of the greatest threats,” said Dr. Hanna “to the Church in the next two decades.”

After a round of teaching in Scottish universities, Dr. Hanna would be heading for Egypt where he would minister in this way. (TFL)

In the four Bible messages by Dr. Hanna, he emphasized *the two aspects of missionary work, the centrifugal and the centripetal*. There is the “Go” aspect as demonstrated by Abraham as he left his country going whither he knew not at the express command of God. On the other hand, Israel was told to be friendly and hospitable to the strangers who came their way. It was in this way that these would come to know the true God. Hence, we have those who “come” and we are responsible to share Christ with them. The Queen of Sheba visited Solomon and was greatly impressed with the glory of his kingdom and the God whom he served. Later at the dedication of the temple, Solomon reminded the people of the need to reach the stranger within our land. We were reminded that in the USA there are 6,000,000 non-tourists, non-immigrant people from other lands who take up temporary residence in America. We have an obligation to share our faith with these people. In the University of Edinburgh, there are 1200 overseas students and the same is true of other universities in Nairobi, Cairo, Madras, Bombay and throughout the world.

The New Testament also provides examples of the centripetal mission of God. Perhaps the best known to us is that of the Ethiopian servant whom Philip led to the Lord and then he went back to his own country to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Within the last thirty years, great changes have taken place in the distribution of people. Tens of thousands are moving out of the undeveloped nations, looking for education. Many of these have come from otherwise closed lands where missionaries are unwelcome. The opportunities are before us wherever we are today to share Christ with them. Dr. Hanna felt that there needs to be a much greater emphasis on this aspect of reaching hidden people.

He suggested a possible model. We should begin to pray for twelve individuals. Six of these might be from priority people groups and the other six would be for the purpose of training reproducers. In three years time a veritable army would be raised up if many of us would adopt such a model for mission. (EMIS)

Special Events and Items of Significance

A theme song was composed by Mr. Ben Jennings and learned by the delegates. We believe this will be useful to help keep in view the spirit of the Consultation to plant a church in every people group by the year 2000. (The song is reproduced in the Introduction—Ed.)

Eric Stadell of Mission SOS spoke to the assembled delegates in an impromptu speech, in which he urged us to give ourselves to the goal expressed in the WCFM theme, “A Church for Every People by the Year 2000.” He led us in a chant that rose in crescendo and aroused our great desire to see this goal accomplished. (EMIS)

Conclusion

Did we make history? The vision of “a Church for Every People by the Year 2000” has been defined, clarified and focused—and enthusiastically taken up by a sizable number of the delegates and students. It is a specific vision within the total ministry of the Church—the “hidden bird” of the Hindu epic, which is the only thing many of us can see in the tree! Its progress will be measurable.

We did not accomplish all we had set out to do. There was no “sharing out of the Hidden Peoples among missionary agencies”; there was no monolithic structure formed to carry on the work of Hidden Peoples; there was not even a concerted, coordinated Master Plan! BUT—we did “share the results of contemporary research;” we did “facilitate the necessary strategy, planning and action to achieve our goal,” at least in some measure. We certainly did “fellowship together in thinking, planning and praying together;” we “stimulated enrichment and enlargement of missionary vision” by the bringing together of participants from many parts of the world. And if the ongoing “catalyst committee” which did result from our deliberations, feels it necessary and wise, the ground-work is laid for advance in both researching and evangelizing Hidden Peoples. Future

conferences may be organized on a regional basis.(TWL)

Were the two consultations worth it? The students gave a resounding yes, and insisted that they wished to be included at all future such consultations, both those of students and of the mission executives. The executives also voted yes. Some wished aloud that some churchmen had been invited as observers. But the general consensus was well stated by one mission executive from India when he said, "I hope it won't be another 70 years before we meet again." Following that lead, an International Catalyst Committee was set up and charged with exploring the time and place for another similar meeting and to act as a clearing house for the developing plans of the world's mission agencies to penetrate the last frontiers.(GCCGB)

As we now look back, we wish two weeks had been available instead of just one. The afternoon working sessions by people groups were too short to move as far as was necessary in strategic thinking. More time was needed for discussion back and forth from the floor. It would have been nice if the students would have been able to finish their consultation in time to share with the executives what they had accomplished. This was a first for them, and the first in 70 years for the mission agencies. It was also a first for a joint international missions meeting of students and executives. Lessons were learned which can now be built upon in another such consultation.

When will that be? As one delegate put it, "We may not have 20 years to reach some of the frontiers. History is moving too fast." To take seriously the finishing of the Great Commission means moving ahead together by mission agencies from around the world, student organizations and those church leaders and organizations who met at Pattaya. The harvest is ripe now in more places than we know!(GCCGB)

At the close of the business session on Saturday morning, the chairman said, "Surely the Holy Spirit has moved us to unanimity." We have had a hard look at the hidden peoples and are convinced that this is our task for the next 20 years. He reminded us that we should also remember that there were many mission leaders who did not take part in this Consultation. The very fact that they were not here says a great deal. Again, there was still the problem of western domination. This was a recurring theme as the delegates spoke with one another. Nevertheless, there was real cooperation and a sense of unity throughout. We must have a closer cooperation between these two God-appointed agents as we move ahead in our future task.(EMIS)

Did Edinburgh begin a new Student Volunteer movement? It may be too early to tell. The delegates did not feel that a large organizational structure was to be formed at this Consultation. Rather, God seemed to be encouraging a global movement composed of individuals within and outside of existing organizations who share a common commitment to reaching Hidden Peoples and to spreading that vision.

The clarion call has been sounded: “A church for every people by the year 2000!” Knit together by a week of rich, ear-opening experiences, the student delegates parted ways. Each took home this challenge for other people to share a life-time commitment to the cause of frontier missions, whether at home or abroad.

This anecdote was given to us in the closing session. One of the missionaries in India, an Indian national, was giving a gospel message to a group of people. An aged Indian said, “I have a question. When did this person Jesus Christ come?” The answer was, “1900 years ago.” And he responded, “Where have you been hiding all this time?” May God’s people come out of hiding and reach out to those people who have been hidden from our view because of our lack of concern and unwillingness to sacrifice to give them the knowledge of Jesus Christ and a share in His blessings.(EMIS)

Resolution of Delegates

We, the participants of this consultation, in order to maintain the vision of Edinburgh ’80 agree:

- 1) That there should be a small international catalyst committee to carry on after Edinburgh ’80 with the following tasks:
 - a) Maintain correspondence with regional and national efforts to promote “Hidden People” consultation.
 - b) Encourage development and support of materials to be used in provoking a vision for Hidden People.
 - c) Relate with the major evangelical bodies, e.g. WEF/ MC, LCWE, AMA, EMA, EFMA, IMA, IFMA, and various other regional and denominational organizations, in order to continue to place the vision of the Hidden People before these bodies and their spheres of influence, and in order to continue to discuss further efforts to meet the needs of Hidden People both in outreach and consultation.
 - d) Look toward projection of another world conference of mission agencies and societies.
- 2) That the theological basis of the catalyst committee be the theological criteria of Edinburgh ’80, i.e., the statements of faith of the LCWE, WEF, IFMA, AMA, EMA, IMA, and other similar evangelical bases.
- 3) That the international catalyst committee include one mission agency or society representative from the following areas
 - (a) Africa south of the Sahara
 - (b) Middle East and North Africa
 - (c) Europe
 - (d) East Asia

- (e) South Asia
- (f) Latin America
- (g) North America
- (h) Oceania

Note:

This catalyst committee be empowered to enlarge its membership for adequate area representation and to work out arrangements for its own continued functioning.

- 4) That the appointment of the personnel of the international catalyst committee should be determined by the consultation, e.g., the assembly might request the ad hoc evaluation committee to serve as an appointing committee.
- 5) That the new catalyst committee select a chairman and that the chairman meet with the chairman of the ad hoc convening committee for the transmission of information and to determine the transition process.
- 6) That the new catalyst committee establish a coordinating desk to facilitate accomplishment of its task.

Resolution

We the delegates of the Edinburgh '80 World Consultation on Frontier Missions express our heartfelt thanks, gratitude, and appreciation for the countless hours of work and labor of love the individuals of the convening committee have invested in making this gathering such a great success.

May the Lord richly bless and reward each of you. – Jim Downing

How Leaders Saw Edinburgh

Many of those who attended the consultation were kind enough to send us their impressions. Some were negative, and these have been noted in the event of a further conference. We have chosen a few to reproduce as typical examples of how lives and ministries were affected.

From 2 to 20 people groups:

“E-80 was a real eye-opener in my life. We were concentrating mostly on two people groups, but after Edinburgh we are moving into a little over 20 people groups in this hill country... finished two surveys of the Lodakh region and will be opening his new station there in May, among half a dozen new tribes.”
—P.M. Thomas, Kashmir Evangelical Fellowship, India.

Seeking Hidden People Among Seamen:

“We have established the relationship of mutual cooperation among seamen’s mission organizations in Europe and America. Also we are expected not to miss any hidden people of seamen visiting Korean ports.”—Korea Harbor Evangelism

50 Full Time Missionaries:

“As a direct result of E-80 we plan on having 50 full time missionaries on the field within two years... this summer we anticipate sending 150–175 student-missionaries to work with over 20 non-North American mission agencies throughout the world.”—National Encounter with Christ, USA

A Responsibility:

“... we have a responsibility to spread the vision of frontier missions in Finland... the involvement of students in E-80 encouraged me to challenge Finnish students to engage more in world evangelization... our aim is also to do research work for finding unreached (or hidden) peoples in our exciting fields in Asia, Africa and Europe.”—Seppo Vaisanen, Finnish Lutheran Mission

Keep Priorities Straight:

“The consultation forced me to think through some strategy issues and precipitated actions and recommendations to my mission... will help keep our priorities straight and give further impetus to pioneer evangelism among hidden peoples within our sphere of work in East Asia.”—Dan Bacon, Overseas Missionary Fellowship, USA

Cross-Cultural Evangelism:

“Agreements with agencies such as Indonesian Missionary Fellowship, the Friends Missionary Prayer Band, (India), and A.M.E.N. (Peru), whereby we can effectively channel people, funds, and resources into cross-cultural evangelism.”—R. Larcombe, Regions Beyond Missionary Union, U.K.

E-3 Missions a Reality:

“WCFM told me that E-3 missions had become reality for the 3rd World churches.”—Gerald Swank, Sudan Interior Mission, International

No Longer a Small Organization:

“By being there, HKEF was no longer a small missions organization way off in Hong Kong, we are now a member of an international movement, an integral part of an effort to fulfill the Great Commission.”—Edwin Keh, Hong Kong Evangelical Fellowship

Organizational Development:

“Contacts with similar groups at E-80 has helped tremendously in organizational development.” —Willard Walls, Outreach International, USA

Reminded of a Responsibility:

“... identifying ourselves with like-minded Christians all over the world for the early evangelization of the hidden peoples among the Hindus, Buddhists, and Animists in the regions of the Indo-Burma and Indo-China... reminding us of our responsibility to this important region to which no Western missionary is allowed. As a result of E-80 we are going to plant churches among the Meitei people in Manipur Valley, the Nepalis in Manipur Hills.” —T. Lunkim, Gospel Mission Society of the Kuki Christian Church, India

Adjust our Strategy:

“The WCFM goal challenged us to adjust our strategy... to make our plans in order to help reach the goal of the conference... share our own renewed vision with other organizations here.” —Panya Baba, Evangelical Missionary Society of Evangelical Churches of West Africa

Plan Evangelism Among Hidden Peoples:

“My organization is now planning to arrange a meeting of all independent and voluntary evangelistic organizations in Andhra Pradesh to plan a strategy for the next two years for evangelism among Hidden Peoples.” —P.D. Prasada Rao, Christian Dynamics, India

Share This Vision:

“I want to share this vision with my Home Board, churches, groups, and prayer supporters all over my country and also with our missionaries on the field... consultation was an important stepping stone for the road ahead.” —A. Voreland, Den Norske Tibetmisjon, Norway

Slogan Heartily Endorsed:

“We in W.E.C. heartily endorse this vision for “A Church for every People by the year 2000”—a more modern expression of the objective of W.E.C. We earnestly desire to implement this vision within our mission, and to pass on information about Hidden Peoples and the vision to reach them to as many as possible.” —Patrick Johnstone, Worldwide Evangelization Crusade, Britain

Impressed by non–Western Representation:

“I was impressed with the number of non–Western mission agencies who were represented, and especially those who have no connection with any Western agency.” —Don Hamilton, Association of Church Mission Committees, USA

A Much Needed Conference:

“This is a very serious and much needed consultation.” —George Verwer, Operation Mobilization

A Turning Point:

“Edinburgh ’80—a great turning point—to take away our false satisfaction—to open our eyes to see the Hidden People.” —Thomas Wang, Chinese Coordination Center for World Evangelism

A New Beginning:

“Theological Students for Frontier Missions traces its origin back to Edinburgh ’80.” —Ward W. Shope, Theological Students for Frontier Missions