

Editorial

We are changing our name! Well, not completely, just the subtitle. Starting with this issue, *Transformation's* subtitle is: *An International Evangelical Dialogue on Mission and Ethics*.

The name change signals an increased emphasis on wholistic mission. As your editors travel, we keep meeting people and seeing ministries that combine evangelism and social concern. We want to share more of the stories and increase our analysis of the church's mission practice from this perspective.

All three of us editors are involved in such ministries. A few months ago, Vinay felt led to conclude a Sunday morning worship service in his home congregation with an invitation to accept Jesus Christ. About twenty-five people came forward to accept God's grace and surrender their lives to Christ.

That Sunday response, however, did not occur in a vacuum. Vinay and his wife Colleen have been leading a multi-faceted program among the poorest in Lingarajapuram (a very poor area near Bangalore) for over a decade. Their community development programmes have won them credibility and helped build the church. So it was natural, four years ago, when hundreds of poor Hindus and Moslems were displaced and homeless, for them to turn to Vinay's and Colleen's ministry. The Sunday service where a number of these folk came to Jesus was a natural outcome of the previous two years of helping these desperate displaced people with advocacy, housing, literacy training, jobs and revolving credit.

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From July 8-14, over 1500 Christians met at Brighton '91 for the International Charismatic Consultation on World Evangelization (see p.32 for a report). One of the most powerful presentations was by David Berly, a French charismatic who called for Christians to combine evangelism and the search for justice for

the poor.

At this conference a number of us felt that the time is ripe for the three great streams of world evangelization, Christian social concern, and renewal in the Holy Spirit to flow together. Two of us editors are on the steering Committee of this important process: "The Good News of the Kingdom: An International Consultation on Evangelism, Social Concern, and Renewal in the Spirit." Wholistic models combining all three streams will be shared and discussed in regional meetings which will lead up to a January/94 consultation. (Those interested may write to: Denison Jayasooria, c/o Malaysian Care, 21 Jln. Sultan Abdul Samad, Brickfields, 50470 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.)

WHOLISTIC MISSION

Transformation plans to devote more attention to wholistic mission (combining evangelism and social concern). We intend to publish a lot more stories in our series on "Wholistic Models of Evangelism and Social Concern."

We are also projecting a new series, "Evaluating Theologies of Mission," where we will analyse the theology of mission of major movements and organizations in the church today.

Samuel Escobar's lead article and the responses in this issue inaugurate this new emphasis on wholistic mission. The stories about Spreydon Baptist in Christchurch, New Zealand, and about Waldron Scott in Paterson, New Jersey, in the U.S. add to the literature on how wholistic ministry is done.

Transformation's increased emphasis on wholistic mission does not mean we have abandoned our focus on Christian ethics. That remains strong. In the current issue, Van Leeuwen's piece on evangelical feminism continues the debate on a perennial issue. We also have great issues well on the way on "Evangelicals and Politics in Latin America" and on "Urbanization."

 



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