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The making of an evangelist

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CHAPTER 6 COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE KNOW HOW

In the text from the King James Version in 1 Corinthians 12:28 it speaks of God sitting in the church those with special gifts. Among them is the gift of "helps". This can be translated 'administrators' or the gift of administration. It has been defined as "anything that would be done for poor, or weak, or outcast brethren". Also it is suggested that 'helps' can mean 'those who can get others to work together' in Christ's great programme.

So 'helps' is a "gift of the spirit" designed to be used in the field of administration, and helping others, not as sometimes it would seem, something that is almost outside the field of spirituality.

Early in my service for God in the field of Evangelism in a full-time capacity, I was brought face to face with the need for a gift of administration and an aim to help others.

I felt my call of God was to the whole world, and that 'Evangelism' meant to me that because, "God so loved the world" I should seek to follow His steps, and love the world of the lost and needy too.

In Part II of this book the fruits of quite a few years of teaching, organising, learning will be given in a practical way so that others may profit in their attempts to do outreach, either on the church level or beyond.

My background from the school of disappointments, learning experiences and help from Army Administrators come together now. I was an itinerant evangelist, and an organiser as Director of Evangelistic Programmes for teaching others the spiritual and practical guidelines for evangelistic outreach.

The following list of opportunities for testing my ability and the God given gift of administration which it seemed others recognised that apparently I had. I crave your patience again as I list them, and later in the chapter will highlight some matters arising from them.

From 1961 - 1974 I took part in heading up the organisation of, or learning from overseas sources. Some of the International Evangelists whose Crusades in which God used my organising ability were:

1961 Leighton Ford Crusade to Brisbane and other centres in Queensland.

1964 Missouri/Australia Crusade to Queensland and Welcome Meeting in Brisbane.

1966 I was Queensland's Captain of Australian Team to Missouri USA.

1967 Head organisation of Dr Akbor (HAQQ) of Billy Graham Evangelistic Association for meetings in four centres in Queensland including Brisbane.
1968 – Heading organisation of Crusades for the Billy Graham Crusade to Queensland with Dr John Wesley White and Dr Billy Graham.

1969 – Was President of the Baptist Union of Queensland.


1971 – Was President for 2 years of Queensland Council of Churches (not the World Council) but a State Council of long standing values and of the Bible Society of Queensland.


1975 – Was Associate Evangelist to Dr John Haggai in the Allá-á Ulster Crusade, Northern Ireland. Met with Christian Leaders in Beirut on way to Northern Ireland.

1976 – I was in New Zealand for 4 months at the Auckland Baptist Tabernacle.

Arising from some of the overseas trips and opportunities for furthering my knowledge of Evangelism were Congresses attended by me.

“In 1966 I spoke at a meeting of Evangelists and Pastors in the Lake Woodmere Conference, (also called Lake of the Ozares) Missouri USA. There were about 600–1000 there of Australians and Americans.

Later in 1966 I was the sole Queenslander of any denomination invited by the Billy Graham Association to West Berlin to the World Congress on Evangelism, attended by many World famous Evangelists, Professors and Theologians. There were approximately 1500 there. Besides having the opportunity of presenting a paper to the Congress in the "Windows on the World" section of the Congress, and needing to depend on God for wisdom seeing that the audience consisted of 1500 of leaders of World Class, in many instances, with a very large contingent of mass media from all over the world, and I felt the need of the Strength of the Lord.

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One of the great opportunities I had, apart from being blessed by the spiritual feast from speakers from many countries, was the opportunity of meeting two Auca Indians from South America. They had been involved in the deaths of some American Missionaries who flew in to try to establish a mission work in the area. There were five of them, and though at first these missionaries seemed to be welcomed, later the Auca Indians killed them. The pilot Nate Saint was one killed, his sister Rachael Saint, later was able to go into the tribe as a missionary. The presence of the two men Kimo and Komi demonstrated in themselves the power and triumph of the gospel.
Kimo was in the party that killed the missionaries and Komi a relative of Kimo married the girl of the Aucas who was able to get the missionaries into the tribal area. (Daiyuma was her name). These two men told a wonderful story in their language, which was translated by Miss Rachel Saint. It told how Kimo who helped to kill the missionaries, was Converted to Christ, and has since become The Pastor of the auca Church. When he went home again, he was going to baptise the Son of Nate Saint, the man he helped to kill. Practically the whole tribe had come to Christ. This is a typical example it seems to me, of the text á¬“Except a corn of wheat falls into the ground and die it abides alone but if it dies it brings forth much fruit”. (John 12:24)

Later after one of the meetings I was able to speak to them through Miss Saint, and again at the Berlin Zoo. They were greatly impressed by the size of some animals, as most of the animals in their district were monkeys.

Billy Graham preached in the KURFUSTENDAM, one of the main streets of West Berlin to a large crowd in the open air outside a Lutheran Cathedral. The interpreter was most impressive even to intonations of the voice and gestures. And all this was not far from the Berlin Wall; and the burnt out Reichstag. I was able to visit East Berlin twice behind the Berlin Wall, and saw the sad state of affairs there. When I was there, there were graves on the West Berlin side to show the death place of those who tried to escape to freedom from East Berlin, but were shot as they tried to get across the wall. There was also a church Bell Tower with machine gunners on guard watching the wall. When we went in through Checkpoint Charlie, the East Germans put mirrors under our buses, and under cars that were there because some people had tried to escape in that way by tying themselves under a car.

In the art gallery there were pieces of sculpture with propaganda overtones, and school children were being indoctrinated as they studied the 'art'.

Youth Meetings and Sunday School were not possible because of Communist regulations and Pastor's ministries were very limited.

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Inside the wall was the bunker in which Hitler committed suicide, not far from the buildings from which Dr Goebbels and Herman Goerring operated.

That wall was so terrible that I was deeply moved when I heard it had been broken down. In my study there is a piece of that wall, which I keep as a reminder of days of great hardship for East German Christians and Non-á¬“Christians alike.

Ú¬“In 1968• á¬“There was a Ú¬“follow up Area Congress• arising out of the World Congress in West Berlin, but this time it was held in Singapore and known as the Asiaá¬“South Pacific Congress on Evangelism, attended almost exclusively by Asians, with the leadership being Asian. The only exceptions made for Europeans were Australians and New Zealanders, Australasians and a few Missionaries from USA and other places but ministering in Asia. The Australians and The New Zealanders were looked on as part of the Asian scene. Indeed they called Australians á¬“"The White Asians" á¬“This is worth considering carefully for it could show clearly our place in the Asian area especially as far as acceptance by the Asians.
One lunch time I wandered into an informal Prayer Meeting (of mainly Chinese Christians praying for the opening of Mainland China to the gospel, and some were offering to give their lives if it would come about). I wasn't game to open my mouth in prayer when I heard the fervency shown by these dear Chinese Brethren and felt the sincerity of their deep commitment. Today as I write, the doors are opening and the estimated Christian Community has jumped from 1 Million to 50 Million.

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In 1970, I was asked to be part of an Evangelistic drive in South East Asia, and my assignment was in the mining town of Ipoh, in Malaysia. I was preaching in the American Southern Baptist Church called Canning Gardens. There were a number of interesting sidelights to my stay in Malaysia. This church run by Southern Baptist Missionaries, and native people was English speaking, and the congregation was mainly Chinese, Indian, Eurasian, and some Europeans. The Malays were not free to come usually, because Malaysia is a Moslem Country and the Moslem religion is the National religion of Malaysia and proselytising by other religions was not permitted. We actually did have to be very careful because the authorities had cracked down on someone who tried to comfort a distressed Malay woman, by speaking of the help Christ could give. So our ministry was usually among the Chinese Buddhists, the Indian Hindus, and other groups. A couple of nights during the Crusade, two Malays arrive young people turn up for the meetings, and I could tell the church people were uneasy about them being there. The problem was that if they responded for Christ, it could mean trouble for the church and the mission and the possibility of action to close the church, so I was given to understand. I think it was the only time in my life when I asked the Lord not to let these people respond to Him in open appeal because the closure of that Christian witness would have been a catastrophe. What made it doubly difficult was the fact that one of the two Malays was the daughter of a very high Malaysian Government Official.

Another thing that was worth noting was in my visitation to the homes. One young man had been in a bad accident and some of his friends, I understand, were killed. I went to his home to try to comfort him and to
lead him to Christ. It was a Buddhist home with its little shrines and some candles and incense burning. The mother of the home would not come in, or listen to what we had to say, but the boy was open to the gospel. To make a decision for Christ in some of these countries is a costly thing. Let me explain by way of another happening in the meeting á-á I had made an appeal, including some to be baptised; often there are some who respond secretly and all is well till they are baptised. This particular night there was an incident which showed this very clearly. I had made an appeal and one young Chinese girl did not respond but was still in the church crying bitterly, after the service had ended. An Australian man who had come along to hear a fellow countryman preach, came up to me to introduce himself. He said, he knew the girl who was crying and what she was crying about. She came from a strict Chinese Buddhist home and she was convicted in the meeting to come to Christ and to be baptised. However, her elder sister had responded some time earlier in this way, and when she went home, apparently the news had travelled before her, her father was angry and on arrival at her home her belongings were in a suitcase in front of the home, and her father told her she had to go and not come back again. She had nowhere to go, but a Christian lady learned of her plight, and took her in to live with her. These people know what it is to bear the Cross for Jesus Christ.

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Ú Two other things• that weighed heavy on my heart were a visit to a Tin Mine, and another visit to a Buddhist Temple. It was early in the day when we got to the mine. We were there just in time to see all the miners grouped together at the mine head having prayer for safety and guidance for the day. I felt sad because I knew they had no access to Almighty God because they were not coming through Jesus Christ. In Acts 4:12 it says "Neither is there Salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

The first verse of Florence Spencer Palmer's beautiful hymn says it all.

"None other Lamb, None other name, None other hope in heaven or earth or sea, None other Hidingá-place from guilt and shame, None beside Thee."

How true and wonderful for those who know Christ, how sad for devout Buddhists and Hindus who have not turned to Him.

In the Buddhist Temple in IPOH. I saw "two happenings• which saddened my heart. There was a little Indian girl looking at the ceiling praying to a painted Indian God. Although this was apparently a Buddhist Temple it seemed to cater for some Indians besides Chinese. I would have liked to have told the young girl of about 10á-12 years of age about Jesus, but I was not given any opportunity to do so. "Then the other thing• which happened in another part of the Temple area there were two men on a scaffold, building a 'God' of some sort. It was hard to discern when I was there just what the 'God' was supposed to be, as it was not advanced enough to decide. I have often prayed for those I saw that day and back to the Buddhist home I visited, the home of the lad in the accident, and he asked the Saviour into his life, by praying the prayer of Commitment.

"Back in the Canning Gardens Baptist Church in IPOH.œ.

It was a great night on the closing day of the Crusade to see the Pastor baptising quite a number of people, who were confessing their new found
faith in Christ, especially when you think of what it must have cost some of them to take that step.

One thing I have learned as an Evangelist in some of these countries, that one should never ask these people to take steps of Commitment, without having fought out a battle on one's knees to be willing to make a commitment of his life comparable to what they are doing. This helps to avoid hypocrisy in the preacher, and is good for the soul of the Evangelist.

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Missionaries often need our special prayers to ask God to help them to overcome the noise and clamour of some Eastern cities, in order to have a profitable 'quiet time'. It has been my practice for years as an Evangelist, having learned a deep secret from others, to set aside a few hours in the afternoons of a crusade in order to get my heart in touch with God and to see that my message comes as an authentic message from God, so that I may truly stand in the pulpit as God's messenger.

It was difficult to do this in IPOH, and I don't know how the missionaries got on living in the mission house where I was staying. Every day from approximately 6 a.m. to 12 midnight a neighbour whose house was just a small distance from my bedroom, had loud popá–music in the Cantonese Language. It was deafening and disturbing to say the least. I went to the pulpit some nights, not as prepared as I longed to be. Despite this, God was at work!

Ú“From Malaysia I moved onto Japan for the 12th Baptist World Congress, held in the Budokan Hall, part of the Emperor's palace in Tokyo. It had been used for Karate Competitions; a place where the Australian Boxer Lionel Rose won a World Championship; and when I was there we had people from all over the world with Billy Graham taking part as a Southern Baptist Minister and speaker to the Congress. We had a great meeting in the last meeting in the Budokan where Billy Graham spoke at a large outreach meeting, as the Baptists were attempting to witness to the Japanese people. Many people responded to his appeal. It was a time of rich blessing and Congress added more knowledge and experience to my thinking on the theme of Evangelism and my life. Ú“At the concluding meeting, Japanese school children were carrying the flags of various nations and it was a moving moment to see the girls carrying the USA flag and the Australian flag, dipping them in salute; especially when a few years before, their nation and the USA and Australia had been deadly enemies. I was privileged at that time to be invited to a special supper put on by Billy Graham for those who had helped him in Crusades in various parts of the world. It was good to be there and to meet people who worked behind the scenes in the Billy Graham Crusades from many lands.

Ú“On the way to Tokyo I had a remarkable answer to prayer. There was an American Evangelist, Dr Jack Stanton, going to the Congress and he wanted to meet up with me again as he came through Australia on the way to Tokyo. Somehow because of our travel schedules we missed each other, and we were both still desirous of meeting up for various reasons. I gave the problem over to God. Much later I was in a shop in Hong Kong and I heard an American voice outside the shop, and I thought I
recognised it as Dr Stanton. I was right; he stepped into the shop and so we were able to meet after all.

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I had some difficulty with my pronunciation of some of the Japanese Land Marks. One day I got myself lost in Tokyo and seeing a Travel Bureau, I went in to ask directions. I said to the Japanese girl behind the counter á-á "Could you tell me the way to the Ú Ú"BUDOKAN• please"? She started to laugh and went around the office saying, "He said Ú Ú"BUDOKAN•". I asked her what I should have said and she answered Ú Ú"BOO•DOKAN•". Thanking her, I went out to find a taxi cab. Using my new found `Japanese', I said "To the Ú Ú"BOO•DOKAN please". "BOODOKAN"? "BOODOKAN"?, he replied, looking very puzzled. Then it dawned on him á-á "Oh Ú Ú"BOO DO KAN•", so I finally got back to the place despite whatever sound BUDOKAN was supposed to make.

Later I got into more trouble. I wanted to catch the Monorail in the heart of Tokyo. I asked a Japanese man where I could catch the Monorail á-á "Up there" he said, pointing up to the side of a building. Oh, no, I thought to myself, it must be my pronunciation again. So I asked another man and he pointed up to about the 3rd or 4th floor of this building, and I was just as confused. The third man I asked could speak quite good English and he said "Yes Sir, take the escalator to the 3rd floor of that building and you will catch the train up there".

You see Tokyo at that time had the same number of people in that city as we had in the whole of Australia. So there are overpasses, ground level, underground, and it is needed because so many require transport. So, sure enough when I went up the escalator to the 3rd Floor, there was the Monorail Station á-á with the line in one side and out the other side of the building, and markings on the station platform where in busy times, they get behind the crowd to push them in so I'm told.

These Congresses are very inspirational and informative. One learns much about other countries with their different cultures, needs, and ways they worship God. The music, both instrumental and vocal is marvellous. Some of the great speakers, teachers and Evangelists from all over the world are there. It is a tremendous blessing and learning experience bringing one nearer to God.
In 1974 my wife and I were invited to an International Congress on World Evangelism at Lausanne, Switzerland. I little knew when I went there, that this conference would change the direction of my life. The change which took place was to be quite dramatic. It happened like this. The meetings themselves were held in an auditorium, with a beautiful flower garden depicting the Logo of the Conference in a most beautiful country – Switzerland. Lausanne is close to Lake Geneva and it is a very beautiful place. But it was not the beauty of the surroundings that changed direction for me. It was some of the people who were there, especially some people with dark to black skin who were in grave danger because of their faith in Christ, and living for Him in troubled lands. It was the very last meeting when it happened. The meeting was at an end, and on the platform were about 8 or 9 black or coloured men standing together. It dawned on me, quite suddenly, that every one of these men, were going back to countries where they would face great danger or even death. I realised that they knew in a very vivid way what it meant to make Jesus ‘Lord’.

I believed that I was wholly committed to the Lord and up to a point I certainly was. The Holy spirit was speaking to my heart, which in effect meant that I was challenged to go to the world, and especially ‘The Trouble Spots' of the world if called to do so. At the time I was Director of Evangelism and Mass Media with the Baptist Union of Queensland. I, in effect, told the Lord á-á that he had to be Lord of everything or not Lord at all. My wife and I had been sitting together and as we walked out, I said to her á-á I have something to tell you, and I told her about the decision I had made in my heart. She said I have something to tell you too. While she was in the meeting God spoke to her on a different line, but it could bring a similar result as my commitment. To her, God was speaking about the first home of our own we had ever owned in all of our married life, and which we had only shifted into recently. God convicted her by His Spirit, and when it seemed clear that he was speaking to her heart, about giving up the new home if necessary, she told Him she would be willing to do this, if needed. Then another thing happened which was a confirmation.

We went out to the Information Counter where we had a box with our number on it, and in it were put letters and lecture notes and the like. There was a letter for me from an International Evangelist who said he had intended to come to the Congress, but was unable to at the last moment. In the letter he said á-á “I have been thinking a lot about you, and I feel God is going to open a door for you far wider than you have ever known.” I just could not believe it. It was such a confirmation. Later it turned out that is exactly what happened.

The result of the decision made came in this year. I was invited to join the Haggai Institute, a world wide organisation for the training of Third World Christian Leaders in Singapore for the purpose of sending them home to train others, in outreach and christian leadership. Dr Haggai’s father was a Christian Pastor, born in the Middle East, who married an American lady, and Dr John Haggai was a person suitable to and accepted by the Third World because of his East and West background.
The Institute was invited in 1975 to go to Northern Ireland to hold an Allá-áUlster Crusade, and I was chosen by Dr Haggai to be his Associate Evangelist. My wife and I spent 7 weeks in Northern Ireland. I held crusades in Portrush and Kilkeel and Dr Haggai came later on to head up the Belfast Crusade in Kings Hall. I was asked to help in the Belfast Crusade, particularly doing prison meetings in the Crumlin Road Prison, well known for its danger, and its difficulties. My wife Alice was the featured women's speaker in the Belfast Crusade. I was also engaged in the preliminary pulpit ministry in the Kings Hall Crusade in Belfast. My call by God to be willing to go to 'The Trouble Spots of the World', was certainly being fulfilled in this trip overseas. On the way over we had to call in at Beirut on behalf of Haggai Institute, to stay there for a short period, when we were to contact some leaders in this area. There was quite a lot of trouble there, and of course in Northern Ireland also. It was a common occurrence in both places to have either or both Army and Police patrols working around the hotel we stayed in and around the Crusade Centres. In Belfast, every car was searched as it came into the ground with people attending the Crusade, and in the other areas my wife and I were involved in on our own. Cars were kept away from the venues where the Crusades were held.

There was a great deal of blessing, and large crowds in the Portrush and Kilkeel areas, and the newspaper reports said that there was the air of revival surrounding the meetings. Ú“In Portrush• our meeting were held in a Dance Hall Complex with a restaurant attached. The crowds needed to overflow into other rooms with closed circuit Television, the Manager of the restaurant put an ad in the paper saying that his restaurant would be closed down for the period of the Crusade. The reason was that the crowd overflowed into his business area, making it impossible for him to continue to serve the public. On the last Sunday not only was the complex packed as usual, but a landline was run up to a nearby Methodist Church, about 200 yards up the hill.

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Ú“In the Kilkeel area• the meetings were held in the Presbyterian Church, which held around the thousand mark or possibly more. Kilkeel is a small fishing town near the Eire (Southern Ireland) border, and not far away from Newry a well known danger spot. We had good meetings in this area too, with a deepening prayer life, in both attendance and spiritual fervour. There were some very good responses and evidences of the Holy Spirit's convicting power. One lady who came with her sister one night, resisted the call of God that night and had to go way up in the north of Northern Ireland the next day, but was so much under conviction that she came all the way back that night in order to give her life to Christ in that evening meeting.

Ú“In 1975 I too was encouraged by a number of Christians• to set up an Evangelistic Association to go throughout Australia and other parts of the world. After prayer and some remarkable signs of His approval,
money-wise, by people who didn't even know what was in my mind, we decided to go ahead. It was agreed almost unanimously, that we should call it the Reg Jarrott Evangelistic Association. I was the only one who voted against using my name, but I agreed I ought to go along with it, because those in the meeting felt it should be called that, as I was well known in Australia and overseas. They thought too, that it would save a lot of explaining as to what the Association was and who was behind it.

In 1976, I spent 4 months at the Auckland Baptist Tabernacle and was glad to be back in New Zealand having been there some years before, as a guest speaker in the New Zealand Baptist Union Assembly, and having held Crusades and meetings in Mt Albert Baptist Church, Auckland, Rotorua, Petone (in Wellington Area) in the North Island and in the South Island in Christchurch in the Oxford Terrace Baptist Church, and the Opawa Baptist Church. In the Opawa Church we saw great blessings and I understand that not only were there decisions for Christ, but that a number of people went to the mission field. In Auckland Tabernacle there were many decisions for Christ, particularly among men of varying age groups.

In some of these meetings besides the European type New Zealanders, there were Maori's and Samoan's present with results among some of them.

I have been back again to New Zealand a few times, and have had preaching opportunities in some areas, with quite a number of people coming to the Saviour.

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In 1979, I was privileged to go to the first South East Asian Baptist World Congress in two areas of ministry. In Hyderabad - Secunderabad, I was one of a team of Bible Teachers centring our teaching on the book of Ephesians. These Bible Teacher's consisted of some invited Europeans and the rest were Indians. The evening meetings drew a crowd of up to 7,000 and the Bible Studies in the day time drew about 2,000 people each day, and these were divided into groups with one of the Bible Teacher's taking a group. In my group, among others, I had large numbers of really fine christians from Nagaland. When the Congress was over I was invited to head up a small team of three to do evangelistic work from Kurnool, a place approximately South of Hyderabad/Secunderabad and an area of many miles set out in a type of circle south of Kurnool.

The team consisted of two West Australians, a Pastor and a Layman and myself a Queenslander. There were in the vicinity of 400 responses in the period of the Crusade, and some of them were very interesting. In one nominally christian village of about 130 people, there were 40 decisions for Christ, including a large number of first time decisions. The meeting was held in the open among the homes of the people. There were domesticated animals around, and a rushing irrigation stream nearby.

Crops were growing in a small field beside the stream and behind the homes of the people. I was preaching aided by a pressure lamp, and as I
preached flying ants were banging against the lamp, and dying in a heap at the bottom, hundreds of them, and my Bible still has the marks of their decease, on the page which bore the scripture I was preaching from. There was an elderly Indian evangelist who came up to me after the service to tell me of the 40 responses made, and with great joy and some excitement, he said á-á that they really understood and know what they were doing, and most were first time decisions.

On another occasion I had fellowship with a highá-ácaste Indian who had been converted, and was sharing his faith in a meeting of people of various Castes. What a triumph of the Gospel there was there in that home (a Doctors') that night.

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Besides preaching to many High School Children I went out one night to a village quite a number of miles from our home base, in a large Jeep type of vehicle. We passed through one village to see two shepherds lying on forms across the entrance to a kind of culá-ádeá-ásac where their sheep were herded. Passing on to a road that had been washed out in heavy rains especially at the approach to a sharp bridge, it was a case of 'all out and push' to get our vehicle up onto the bridge. Sometime after we arrived at the village where I was going to preach and seated on the floor of the building were about 3á-á4 rows of orphans. They were in various age groups, and it had come about by three disasters which had hit the Thatched homes in the village, in about a period of 10 years, I understand Ú ́Ú"first• there was a Cholera epidemic, Ú ́Ú"then• there was a disastrous fire among the homes in the village, and Ú ́Ú"third• there was another Cholera outbreak.

The building was crowded and I tried to preach "as a dying (but saved) man to many dying people. There was an old elder of the church there who came to me after the service and said "I was born a Christian". At first, I thought that he meant that he had been brought up in a christian home or village, and not in a Hindu one. Then I asked him when were you converted to Christ. He grew a little angry and said "I told you I was born a Christian". My heart went out to him, and I was about to explain the need for Salvation, when my travelling companions told me they had to go back, so I said goodnight and left. However, whenever I think of that village, I hear the voice of a very elderly man saying 'I was born a Christian' and I have prayed and hoped that he would find salvation by being "Born Again".

In my travels through some of these christian villages, I learned a great lesson á-á not to take for granted that the people are christians. In that village of 130 people spoken of higher up on the page, I was advised
not to make an appeal because the whole village was christian. But as I spoke with a number of them before the meeting, I began to feel uneasy about their standing before the Lord. So the Lord moved my heart to make an appeal, and there were these 40 people who made some sort of decision for Christ.

It was a great education in evangelism to move among the villages, to eat with the people, seated on a Manse floor of packed dirt and dried Cow-dung, and eating a nice rice meal on a Banana Leaf for a plate. I had to learn how not to offend by offering things in my left hand, as that hand is usually used for all the dirty jobs around the villages. This was a bit of a problem to me, because in quite a number of things I happen to be ambidextrous, and so use both hands equally. I got over the problem by sitting on my left hand. In fairness to our Indian friends, they were very gracious and overlooked some of our mistakes because they knew that our customs were different too.

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Another thing that underlined the courtesy of the Indian people was the very nice custom they had of welcoming a “Guest Speaker”. They usually put a garland of flowers around his neck, and on one occasion I was given a "preachers scarf" which I am not sure of its proper name, although I have tried to find out. It is given apparently, to show that the wearer is a preacher acceptable to, and accepted by the Indian Church, where he is preaching.

“In studying in the field of evangelism, not only in the World Congresses on Evangelism, I have been greatly helped in Coming To Grips With The Know How, but also in other Crusades in other lands, and in some of the bigger churches in some lands. If a person keeps ears and eyes open it is surprising what can be learnt from mixing with others of different nations, even though some cultures differ immensely from our own. The key word is ADAPT not ADOPT, except in rare instances. The difference of a letter in those two words, makes a tremendous contrast in the way we learn things.

I have been privileged to go to the USA quite a number of times either to take Crusades, or to visit learning centres to do with my work as an evangelist. These visits (about 5 or 6 times I think) have given me a wide experience in all sorts of Churches and other Christian work. My travels have given me opportunities in Missouri (twice) Georgia, North Carolina, Illinois, Florida, California, Maryland, Texas, Pittsburgh, Oklahoma, Virginia, Minneapolis, Hawaii, plus visits to many other States.

It has been good to take part in Crusades of various types and to share the pulpits with many Godly men with the evangelistic fire burning in their hearts.

In some churches, congregations have been so large that they needed two different services to accommodate them in the morning worship time.

In one church in Missouri not only did they have two morning services, and a large evening service, but they had a special ministry to Alcoholics, led at times by a converted, previously ‘hopeless' alcoholic, who tried all sorts of remedies for a cure, but finally he came to the
Lord in this church, and the Lord Jesus gloriously saved him, to be a dedicated, energetic ambassador for Christ. I found it a most moving experience to have a hall filled with converted alcoholics and those who were seeking deliverance through Christ the Lord, and the meeting led by a man who was a standing testimony to the power to save, when Christ comes into a life.

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There were two things at least that stood out in my memory at that church. One challenging and one humorous. The Pastor and his wife were a great inspiration to christians old and young alike. They were amongst the most dedicated soul winners I had ever seen in action. This made it very hard for me but good for my soul. We would get out very early in the morning and go visiting with a view to soul winning all day (almost every day). Sometimes we would get home just in time for me to take the evening meal. Sometimes I fitted the evening meal in when I could. Then after the service the converted alcoholic who had led the alcoholics service, would invite me to go with him into the city looking for alcoholics to win to Christ. On one occasion we witnessed to a heavy drinker, and he gave his heart to the Lord, and immediately poured out all of his stock of drink down the gutter outside.

The Second thing that made quite an impression because I have never had it happen before, or since. I was preaching in the same church from the typical American style pulpit with a small platform attached to the pulpit itself. I smelt smoke and wondered where it was coming from, when to my dismay I found it was coming from beneath my feet in the pulpit area. A Deacon saw my dilemma and hurried over and fiddled with something down near my feet and the smoke stopped gradually. The Deacon looked up at me and with a rather humorous gleam in his eye said "That's a hot sermon you are preaching brother". It appeared, that the Public Address System was below the platform and it `shorted' causing the smoke.

As I write, this incident reminds me of something that took place in the life of a rather uneducated man, who came to Christ in the 1968 Crusade with Billy Graham, in Brisbane. He was telling a mutual friend, who later told me that he had gone out the front at the Crusade, and got himself cremated. Of course he meant converted. The preaching must have been "hot" that day, I thought.

At another church, in a small country area in Missouri, I was preaching, and the Spirit of God moved so wonderfully that the front of the church was filled and the two aisles had quite a number of overflow to the appeal. The Pastor was highly delighted and said "It reminded him of a small Billy Graham Crusade". They were his words, not mine because I wouldn't dare compare myself with that great servant of God. It certainly was an encouragement to see the response.

In yet another church, this time in a different state, in quite a small country town in Georgia where the people had carefully prepared for the Crusade, the church was packed each night with some hundreds of
people, and there was an encouraging response to the appeals made. The church people were greatly encouraged as was the evangelist himself.

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Ú “I was in another church in Illinois • a different State again, where I must have spoken in a church with the best acoustics I have ever heard. The only other church I have been in which had similar acoustics, was St Paul’s Cathedral, London, with its famous ‘Whispering Gallery’.

The American Church didn’t need any Public Address System, to even whisper in the pulpit the voice could be heard all over the church. The church had a ceiling which looked something like the inside of an egg shell in shape. It was a lovely new church, beautifully appointed, and the people that attended there were rightly proud of it. It took quite a lot of thought to build it like that but it was abundantly worthwhile.

Ú “In Minneapolis • I travelled to the headquarters of the Billy Graham Organisation, and was their guest for a short time. I was amazed and encouraged in my heart to see the magnificent work they had done, under the guidance of the Spirit of God. God has certainly had his hand in this organisation in a special way. The building which was large housed many workers. At the time I was there, there were about 450 people working, and I understood my informant to say that at a certain busy time of the year, it could reach 540. They had very highly thought of preachers doing research for the organisation from a theological viewpoint. The Decision’ Magazine was printed and published there. There were people skilled in the photsaá ágraphic and art work, and literally a small ‘army’ of people dealt with correspondence, and the posting of the magazine á á Decision’. They were very upá átoá ádate on their postal records and considered by some to be among the most upá átoá ádate place of its kind. In short, the organisation and administration was a credit to the Association, and must have been a wonder to some noná áchristian groups. I have had the privilege of working with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association on behalf of the Queensland Council of Churches, (Evangelistic Committee) and both in Sydney, Minneapolis, and elsewhere, have always felt that this christian association does great credit to the Lord it works with and loves. There is nothing slipá áshod. Everything is carefully (and prayerfully) done. Some of its main administrators could have had highly paid top Executive positions in the business world, but they were and are committed to what they believe (God’s work) is the most important task in the world. This writer has a great affection for such an organisation as this is, and praise God for it, and its dedicated leaders and staff. Needless to say, in the ‘schooling’ in evangelism, I have had from God, many great lessons were learned from this first rate evangelistic association and its evangelists.

Ú “In the learning experience I had and continue to have • in the field of evangelism was the input into my life by tried and tested evangelists with wide experience in the homeland and overseas. Many of these I had, had the privilege of heading up Stateá áWide Crusades for.

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Ú “In 1967 • there was Dr Akbor Haqq, a very great Indian member of the Billy Graham Team, and an associate of Dr Graham. Dr Haqq is an expert and authority on Eastern in Religions, has a tremendous ministry in
dealing with the people of India with their varying backgrounds, besides being used by God, very effectively in other countries. He has a very challenging way of presenting the Gospel, and has deep insight into spiritual things. He is very effective among academics. The late chairman of his Queensland Crusade, and myself as Director, were out with Dr Haqq at the University of Queensland, after he had spoken, there were so many seeking further information and counselling, Dr Haqq asked the chairman and myself to deal with some of the questions and spiritual needs. The three of us shared a large number of students and some lecturers in order to try to meet everyone’s needs. Some of the questions asked in the groups showed the deep poverty of satisfaction, because of the spiritual vacuum in the lives of many of these intellectuals.

Some of the questions, disclosed that despite intellectual ability the Apostle Paul had the situation in life summed up when he wrote in 1 Corinthians 2 verses 11, 12 and 14.

Ú"Verse 11 and 12 says•: "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of a man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the spirit of God".

Ú"Verse 12 goes on to say•: "Now we have received, not the Spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God".

Ú"Verse 14 makes a very interesting statement•: "But the natural man (i.e. the non-áchristian) receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned".

These statements are made not to decry the use of our brains but to make sure that if we want to understand God, the truth needs to be revealed to us by God, through his word. It is important in evangelism to remember these great truths and to depend on the Spirit of God to "reveal" the truth concerning Christ's saving work.

Ú"The Book of Zechariah Chapter 4 verse 6•: reminds every evangelist of a very great truth:á"NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS".

The above text is especially discernible in the evangelistic ministry of Dr Billy Graham, and his Associate Evangelists.

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Ú"In 1968œ, I had the privilege also of heading up the organisation of the Queensland Crusade of Dr John Wesley White and Dr Billy Graham.

Dr White came for the first days of the Brisbane Crusade and Dr Graham came for the last 3 days. The meetings were held in the Exhibition Grounds, Brisbane, Queensland, with an increasing number in the crowds coming, peaking on the final Sunday with an estimated 67,000. There were some thousands of responses as these two men with their own type of
ministry were able to see the Spirit of God move in a most remarkable way.

There is a tremendous amount of work and prayer put in behind the scenes in order to have large crowds and in Part II of this book I hope to be able to show methods which will help in the building of a crowd. The musicians which travel with Dr Graham also put in many hours of practice, to present the best offering of music to God possible.

Things are checked and re-checked each day at the grounds so that everything will go like clockwork, and things like Public Address Systems which should work, will work.

Behind the scenes with large crowds, there are Ambulance personnel brought to help when required, with their own "Ambulance Headquarters" beneath the stands. There are 'Counselling Areas' for decisions made in the arena. The "Follow-up Room" is set up with a place to receive a copy of details of all people deciding to trust Christ with the name, address and decision, and a large number of voluntary office workers and typists ready to have notification of the decision in the post the same day (or night) of the Crusade response.

Besides we were able to set up a special control office for the Director and his voluntary helpers, and a special switchboard, with about 9 or so telephones in various parts of the grounds, ready to be used for any emergency of either a health problem, or a breakdown in the equipment used, or people manning things. These are just a few of the hidden things which go on in a Crusade. A much fuller account on building up to meetings will be given in Part II and will be suitable for meetings of all sizes, and especially should help the local church and its groups.

During the 1968 Billy Graham Crusade in Brisbane, Dr Martin Luther King was killed and Dr Billy Graham was taking some physical exercise on a local golf course when the news came through from the USA. Because he was a friend of Dr King, Rev Cliff Barrows and I went to the golf course to tell him, in case there was something he wanted to do about it. Of course he gave careful and prayerful consideration regarding the whole matter, but decided that he ought to stay on for the Crusade.

After the Brisbane Crusade, I was invited to go to stay with the Billy Graham Team in Sydney as their guest, and to attend the New South Wales Billy Graham Crusade.

One night at that Crusade, as I was seated up behind Mr Graham on the platform it was whispered to me by one of the Associate Evangelists that he had been speaking to a Hindu Doctor most of the afternoon, and he had been told that the Doctor would come to the Crusade that night to talk with the Indian Billy Graham Associate Evangelist, Dr Haqq, because of his expertise in the Hindu religion. It turned out that Dr Haqq didn't come out that night because he wasn't well, so the Associate Evangelist next to me on the platform, said "Reg, you will have to go down to talk with the Hindu Doctor" because he will be coming along the outside of those who respond to Dr Graham's appeal. To say the least, I wasn't too keen on the prospect, because the Associate Evangelist was someone I felt could deal more adequately with the matter than I could.
However, I went down into the arena, praying earnestly to God to help me do something worthwhile for him to work on in the Hindu's life. It took me about an hour for me to try to answer his questions, and to give him the Gospel again. When I asked him to respond to the Call of Christ to his heart, despite previous objections, God used the words spoken by myself, and he decided to give his heart to Christ. I was reminded of the text which says: "One sows, another waters, but it is God who gives the increase"

I'm sure what the Associate Evangelist said, and the message Dr Graham gave, made it possible for me to say some relevant things, and God, praise him, gave the increase.

Not only have I learnt methods and teaching ideas from overseas Congresses, and Evangelists, but have taken in much from Crusades taken by myself in my home State of Queensland, and in other Australian States, and of course those in many nations of the world.

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"As the Associate of Dr John Haggai (another International Evangelist) I took part in the Allá-ÁUlster Crusade in Northern Ireland in 1975. This land has been a troubled land for a considerable time, and I was greatly impressed by the dedication of Christians amidst some danger, and difficulty in this Green land and such a place of beauty created by the Almighty. One had to adjust messages because of the troubles, and appeals had to be tailored to suit the particular area. I had the privilege of ministering in Crumlin Road Prison in Belfast, somewhere near the centre of much of the trouble, but despite the background of the machine gun post outside, the careful checking of visitors, the guarding of the prison by prison officers and some soldiers, the closed circuit T.V. for watching movement within the prison, the double locks on the gates, and the none too receptive audience of prisoners within at the first, God did a great work. My first day in the prison, facing the audience for the first time, I wanted to keep away from the Protestant/Catholic issue, so I tried to get them laughing, by saying "I don't care whether you are a 'BAPTANGLOMETHOPETERIAN', you and I all need Christ as our Saviour", slowly some of the glares confronting me changed into smiles, and so I was able to speak to them. At the conclusion of the meeting a number of prisoners made decisions for Christ. Among them was a young man who was very active in the turmoil in Ireland. He came to me after the meeting and asked me to pray for his brother, who was in the prison too and who was very actively involved in the killings. Actually on the fifth and
last day as I ministered in that prison, surrounded by hardly one building that had not suffered from bombings, the brother of his made a decision for Christ too. I was so glad that the Presbyterian Chaplain, a brave and Godly man, who worked in that area, and who with his teenage son had suffered physically from the violence in the area, was a man adequate and keen for 'The Follow-Up' of the prisoners who responded.

ÚÈÚ"It was an education to see how christians and soul winners worked: in behind the Berlin Wall, in Russia; in Ulster (Northern Ireland) and Eire (Southern Ireland); amongst the dangers in the Robber Villages of India; in Beirut.

My two visits behind the Berlin Wall, and to Red Square in Russia, near Lenin's Tomb, and outside The Kremlin, ÚÈÚ"were a learning experience, and a challenge to deeper dedication of life in the service of Christ. I had actually got into Russia without a visa, through no fault of my own. I had checked four times, on my necessary visas, in East Germany thinking that I had one for both East Germany and Russia. However, it seems, because of language difficulties, I was not given a visa for Russia but only for East Germany when I got to the East Berlin Airport. I was told I didn't have a visa for Russia, so I said "What do I do Now". "Get on the plane" they said. When I asked what would happen to me, the peron I was speaking to, just shrugged a shoulder in reply.

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On board the plane an American man who had been to Russia a number of times kept saying to me in different ways, "I feel sorry for you". He didn't need to tell me that because I wasn't exactly brimming over with happiness myself. You see, I had just been reading about the 32 Christians from Siberia, and so I thought unless God works some miracle I am about to be the 33rd. Reaching Moscow Airport I was further depressed by the look of the place. There was snow on the ground and the sky was cold and grey. Entering the airport there were a number of entrances past Government Employees who checked visas and the like. I stopped outside one, and looked at the face of the officer in charge of one gateway, his face was unsmiling and the look on it was colder than the snow outside. I sent another fast prayer to my God, asking His help. I moved down to the next entrance and the officer there, seemed humane and had a warmer personality. I decided to go to his gateway. He took my passport and I explained about the visa, then held my breath. He looked at the passport and I believe he saw I was a Minister of Religion. He put someone in his place and said "come with me". So I went into the airport with him. It was a civil airport that seemed downright uncivil to me. We went past one machine gunner, indeed about 5 all told, and each one it seemed to me, held a bigger and better? machine gun.

I was taken down one floor in the airport to a desk where another officer was sitting. My escorting officer spoke to him, and after a while he handed me two tickets. I wasn't to sure whether this was a pass into prison or what it was. later, I found out it was two free meals in the restaurant at the Airport, at the Government expense. I was told I had to stay in the Airport and wait for further information. I went to look at the T.V. News in the 'lounge room'. That was no good. They didn't teach me Russian at school. I decided to go to eat. Meanwhile I wondered if I would be allowed to return to my loved ones in Brisbane. That flight was still 'up in the air'. Excuse the pun. Going to the
Restaurant, I was handed a menu, by a very Russian waitress. She couldn't speak English.

The menu was in Russian, the waitress spoke Russian, and it looked as though I was going to go very hungry. I was tempted to point at something on the menu and hope for the best. What stopped me was a story I heard, of an Englishman in a French Restaurant, and he didn't know the waiter could speak English. So he pointed at the menu. In perfect English the waiter said "You can't have that Sir that's the Orchestra•". In the providence of God, a young multi-lingual German man, saw the problem and came over. In very good English asked what I would like to eat. I told him what I had in mind. Looking down the menu, he shook his head and said, "You can't have that" but "this is near to it". So I had 'This' and to this day have no idea what it was. I thanked him for his help and found it was good to eat though.

Later my escort found me, and said for $US30.00 I could get an "INTOURIST GUIDE" to show me around Moscow. I paid up, and was pleased to find that my guide (or guard?) was able to speak English fluently. I also found that he had a girlfriend, who was a guide on a bus. Strangely, we always seemed to be turning up at the same places. He talked with her and I had a little 'freedom' to move about. I swapped an 'INTOURIST official BADGE' with him for a KANGAROO PIN, and gave him some booklets on Australia which he wasn't too sure whether he should take or not.

I was also concerned, least they should search my luggage because in the Berlin Congress on Evangelism, we were given some lecture notes by someone who had suffered much at the hands of Communism, and because the Russians were very touchy about some of these things at the time, I felt it might "not" be "recommended reading" for whoever searched my suitcase.

After about a day, and plenty of Moscow sightseeing I came back to the airport, and was told I could leave the country via India, in a few hours time. I was sorry that I could not take advantage of a letter of introduction I had, which possibly could have given me the opportunity to preach in the Moscow Baptist Church. I could not present the letter or contact the leaders, without some danger to them and me it seemed.

So after standing in a long line• in about 5 inches of very cold snow, waiting to get into the plane, after a while I was on board and in my heart 'waved a fond farewell' to Russia.

In all the happenings of this story, "I learned more about trusting God in a difficult situation. He is able to be there in any country and in any situation, and my task is to trust Him, and be thankful."

"I stayed in a hotel in New Delhi in India at the end of that flight thoroughly exhausted•. I went to bed and slept through a demonstration of some kind by about 1000 people. I heard this later that it was near the hotel I stayed in, but I didn't hear a thing, as I was too busy sleeping."
It was another learning experience for me in New Delhi, and other parts of India when I visited on other occasions. To see people living under trees or sleeping on the streets, stirred my heart as did the vain worship in some temples of gods of man’s making. The poverty and the lostness of the people is something I can never forget, and made me yearn to do something in India for God. Again God gave me the privilege of seeing hundreds come to Him in the meetings I held in various places in Asia, and the Indian subcontinent.

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In 1986, I visited the countries of Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, Mainland Communist China, in the city once called Canton. I had been to Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong before, and had felt God deepening my concern for these areas, and others visited such as Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Phillipines, Indonesia, Malaysia.

In Korea my wife and I were fortunate to attend the World Christian Endeavour Convention in the city of Seoul. The meetings were an inspiration, and we were blessed by attending one of the famous morning prayer meetings, in a Presbyterian Church, which have been going on for years, and bringing a revival Spirit to the South Korean area. One experience which saddened us was that my wives' mother died when we were in Korea.

A High spot for us too, and a reminder that God’s Spirit does work in different ways, was a Communion Service in a South Korean Presbyterian Church. The Communion was conducted in a very ordered fashion, but I can barely remember any other Communion Service, that brought me so close to God. It had dignity, reverence and was so spiritually alive.

One thing I could never forget was going down in the tunnel that communists in North Korea had dug, under the 38th parallel a kind of no man's land between North and South Korea. Down in the tunnel it reminded me of a number of visits made underground in coal mines in various places. God did a marvellous thing here for the Southern Koreans, in answer to many fervent prayers I Believe.

The North Koreans dug the tunnels to bring in some thousands of their soldiers to raid South Korea, but God thwarted their plans in a very interesting way. An old man was out on the hillside, and as he walked over the area he thought he could hear digging. He told the authorities and the secret tunnel was discovered. Our God is mighty and cares for His people as they trust in Him.

I was hoping to do some preaching in The House Churches in Mainland (Communist) China. I sought advice how to go about it, but because of two things I was advised against it.

It was considered to be difficult, owing to the fact that it was Chinese language services and there were very few interpreters, if any, in some places. Also because the political situation at the time was a little risky, for the sake of the Chinese Christians it would be advisable if I didn’t go to a House Church. It might place them in difficulty or danger. Putting my disappointment aside, I decided that the second reason should be noted and the situation avoided. However I was able to
travel in China a little and it too added to my knowledge of world needs, and a stirring of my heart to try to meet the world's great spiritual need.

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Ú Û”The meeting of other evangelists in Australia•, in my positions as Director of Evangelism, President of the Baptist Union of Queensland, and President of Queensland Council of Churches, also as Evangelistic Committee Secretary of the Queensland Council of Churches Ú Û”brought one in face to face contact with many devoted servants of God•, with great evangelistic Ú Û”patterns and expertise•.

Ú Û”All of which has been written in this Chapter•, supplies background matter of This Chapter, "Ú Û”Coming To Grips With The Know How•", one was placed by god in a wide learning experience, and Ú Û”is indebted not only to God for its use in a practical way, but also to those fervent souls with hearts aflame with the love and concern of God for fellow men and women•. May God bless those great warriors of the Cross.

When you come to Part II of this book you will see Ú Û”The Fruit• of these happenings as it takes in the `know how' in Schools of Music, Seminars, Crusades, Timothy programming, theological lectures on evangelism in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania (W.E.C) New Zealand, USA, and in some University meetings. Ministering in the old church called Eld Lane in Colchester England á– the church to which C.H. Spurgeon was setting out for on a very snowy day, but finally could only make it to a chapel down the road. Ú Û”This was a God ordained delay•, and he met with Christ as Saviour and Lord just there. In the United Kingdom I had an opportunity to experience a different aspect of evangelism as I preached in this famous church, Ú Û”and saw some response for the Saviour•, a church perched on part of an ancient Roman Wall.

`Ú Û”INSTEP•' short for "Ú Û”Institute for Special Training and Evangelistic Practice•", was a method used by me, with the help of others with great know how to encourage christians to evangelise using modern equipment to broadcast the old story of God's redeeming grace.

Some of these studies and other written teaching materials will be recast to make it possible to use them in all sorts of local situations, so that both the itinerant evangelist and those who do the work of the evangelist in their christian life may find help along the way.