

**Christian Churches Together
Revised Evangelism Exercise
Historic Protestant Family
January 13, 2009**

Basic Outline:

Focus of next meeting: Evangelism
The group needs input from us, insight, ideas, path,
Going deeper than last meeting in Pasadena (2 yrs ago).

Each family is represented in Group on Evangelism.
Questions have been prepared.

See handout #1.

There are big differences even within our family.

QUESTIONS:

1. What's essential in our statement on Evangelism?

Is the Gospel defined by what Jesus did or who Jesus is?
Evangelism is proclamation and doing of the Good News—The coming of the Kingdom of God

The person of Christ is critical. The proclamation of who Christ is and living with Christ thru acts of mercy, love, justice, reconciliation.

Luke 4:16 Proclaim, release, set free

John 10:10 Life abundant Who Christ is?; what he came to originate?; the end result for us

Emphasis on spiritual & social dimensions

Emphasis on not just what Christ did or said, but who Christ is

We cannot separate our relationship with Christ from our relationship to one another'

Emphasis on unification of heaven & earth

Baptist perspective: human response of repentance and acceptance.

Present an apology to the world/country for having enjoyed the blessings of Christianity at the expense of others. Protestant history of acting, then seeking forgiveness. When we have hurt others.

2. What is the essential means of Evangelisms for each family?

This paragraph strikes me as accurate and decidedly weak. The invitation is to enter a relationship with X and X's people, not just join a church. This betrays one weakness, and is a growth place for us.

Osmosis to bring people to Christ is not just best way. We haven't done 1 on 1 invitation to Christ well.

Are we suggesting that the "decision" to be on a journey of faith and join a family of faith implicit in this invitation?

How should we do this?

How do we do this?

Small groups are one evangelistic tool. We build relationships in our immediate communities.

There are many platforms for evangelism, but the essence is to invite others into a journey/relationship with Christ.

Another issue: we are slow to use technology as a tool. What means are culturally appropriate, rooted in the word?

Some of our churches show profound ambivalence toward evangelism. Proselation, laziness, etc. How do we name the “should” that give our profound resistance?

Missions/Missionaries are the root of our evangelism. Do you mean proselytizing or something else?

What reasons need to be allocated in this direction? Where do we fall short?

It is important to clarify our language.

We must lift the fog and find the official direction between evangelism and mission.

Evangelism is intended to invite another to make a decision.

What is God doing in the world and where am I to join? How is this different from “mission”?

Faith is so deeply personal that some might see it as an attack. Instead, we make them happy by inviting them to an event or a church. If they come long enough, maybe they’ll eventually “get it”.

What stops us from evangelizing?

3. What questions do we want to ask the other families?

Define the terms in your language.

How have your church changed in your thinking on evangelism?

Proselitization

Who need to be evangelized? Who are we aiming for?

What is the most effective means for meeting a post modern world?