

(Developing Leaders Within Homogenous Units.—February 21, 2008.)

## **Developing Leaders Within Homogenous Units.**

**By LaVerne Morse**

To evangelize a formerly unreached Tribe, can even one Christian Leader of that Tribe reach others of his own Tribe better than a Christian Missionary from a different ethnic background? Our goal is to bring as many people as possible from the Lostness of Buddhism, or Hinduism, or Animism, or Islam, or Atheism and Communism, to find the Eternal Life, Light, and Love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **Some Examples:**

- (1) Can a Hispanic Christian reach other Hispanics better and more effectively than a Christian of a Scottish-German heritage?**
- (2) Can an Asian Indian Christian Leader reach other Indians better than an American Christian Missionary from the U.S.A.?**
- (3) Can an Egyptian Christian Leader reach Egyptians better and more effectively than an American Christian Missionary?**
- (4) Can an Iraqi Christian Leader reach the Iraqis more effectively than an American Christian Missionary going from the U.S.A. to Iraq?**
- (5) Can a Burmese Christian Leader reach the Burmese people better than an American Christian Missionary?**
- (6) Can an Akha Christian Leader reach the Akha people better than a Lisu Christian Missionary?**
- (7) Can a Lahu Christian Leader reach the Lahu people in Communist Laos, better and more effectively than an American Christian Missionary going into Communist Laos?**
- (8) Can a Khamti Shan Christian Leader reach the Buddhist Khamti Shan people better than a Rawang Christian Missionary?**
- (9) Can a Mro Khimi Christian Leader reach the Mro Khimi Buddhists better and more effectively than a Lisu Christian Missionary?**
- (10) Can a Lisu Christian Leader reach the Tangsa Naga people better and more effectively than a dedicated Tangsa Naga Christian Missionary?**

### **Strategists in “Church Growth” Movement:**

**Dr. Donald McGavran is sometimes known as the “Father of the Church Growth Movement.” He served for many years as an American Missionary at Bilaspur City, in Central India, to reach the Indian people, including Hindus, with the Gospel of Christ. Dr. Donald McGavran wrote a famous book, “Bridges of God.” This was the beginning of the “Church Growth Movement.”**

**Dr. Peter Wagner, based at the Center for World Evangelism, in Pasadena, California, taught a Course on “Strategy for World Evangelism.” at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois. Dr. Peter Wagner emphasized the Concept of “Homogenous Units.” (HU.) I personally was a student of Dr. Peter Wagner during the Summer Institute of Missions, of Wheaton College, in the year 1975.**

**Another world famous teacher at the Summer Institute of Missions was Dr. Ted Ward, Professor of the Graduate Department of Education, at Michigan State University, Lansing, Michigan. Dr. Ted Ward taught us a course on “Educational Development in the Third World.”**

**Another highly skilled teacher at the Summer of Missions was Dr. Will Norton, Dean of the Graduate School of Wheaton College. He taught us a course on “Nationalism in the Third World.”**

### **Procedure in Cross-Cultural Evangelism:**

**First Stage: A Foreign Christian Missionary must work diligently, devotedly, to reach people of a new, “unreached People Group” with the Gospel of Christ. This is needed specially to reach People where they are, in their Felt Needs, in their Culture, in their Language, with the Love of Christ.**

**The Foreign Christian Missionary may need to take a number of years to develop the Contacts with the Members of the New Tribe. He needs to learn to speak their Language, and to become a Model of the Christian Life, for the non-Christians of the New Tribe. The non-Christians need to see the Example of the Foreign Christian Missionary, not only through the Words of the Foreign Christian Missionary, but also through his day-to-day life.**

**With this approach, the Foreign Missionary begins the process of “Cross-Cultural Evangelism.” Through the Grace of God, and through the Power of the Gospel, and through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the Foreign Missionary is able to reach one or more people of the New Tribe, and to teach that person, and to baptize him, and then to disciple the “New-Born” Christian of this formerly unreached Tribe.**

Thus, the Foreign Christian Missionary reaches from his own “Homogenous Unit” to the person of a different “Homogenous Unit.’ This is the basis of “Cross-Cultural Evangelism.”

**Second Stage:**

The New Christian Leader of the New Tribe must then reach the people of his own “Homogenous Unit,” speaking the “Mother Tongue” of his own people. He must be careful not to “Americanize” but to “Christianize” the people, to bring them to becoming truly “New Testament Christians.” The new Christians of the new Tribe should be taught and disciplined so that they will teach others also. (II Timothy 2:2.)

The Christians within their Homogenous Unit can most rapidly and most effectively reach other people of the same “Homogenous Unit.”

The Foreign Christian Leaders and Missionaries should work to encourage, and to enable the National Christian leader to have the following Characteristics, in his Ministry to the people of his “Homogenous Unit” or Tribe. The Foreign Christian Leaders and Missionaries are to serve as Facilitators, not as Dictators!

**Characteristics of the Christian Leader within his own Homogenous Unit:**

- (1) Dedication and Love for God, and for our Lord Jesus Christ.
- (2) Dedication and Love for the people of his own “Homogenous Unit” or Tribe.
- (3) Visionary, aiming for highest Goals for his own people.
- (4) Initiative:—a “Self-Starter”—serving as a Shepherd Leading His Flock.
- (5) Creative: Inventing better ways to reach the Highest Goals for God.
- (6) Perseverance: going forward in spite of hardships, persecutions, and difficulties.
- (7) Accountable: First in the Sight of God; and then in the sight of men as much as is possible.

At the same time, every Christian Leader needs to avoid being ethnocentric, but truly reaching out in humility in the Sight of God. We are to (1) go to all the “people-groups” (*ethne*), to (2) teach them, (3) baptize them, then (4) teaching them to observe all things whatsoever Christ has commanded. (Matthew 28:19-20.) And, Jesus has promised, “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Praise the Lord!