

LAMBETH MEETING ON URBANISATION: FRIDAY 7TH AUGUST '98

Following upon the passing of the Conference Resolution on Urbanisation II.7 some thirty Bishops and others met to consider follow-up plans. Some initial thoughts on the aims of our future work were noted. I have, additionally, taken the liberty of adding a few thoughts of my own.

Preliminaries

We have a concern not only to look at the symptoms of urbanisation but to address the question of power - who controls and who benefits? The question of values is very important to us - especially the question of Kingdom Values.

We must take care to attempt only what is manageable.

We wish to undertake our work ecumenically but at present we can only manage to keep our partner Churches informed of our work and hope that they will come on board as they can. Later, when hopefully we have more resources available, we will be able to work more in tandem with our sister Churches.

The Aims and Work of the Commission: initial thoughts -

1. To advise and inform. To this end we will create a mailing-list and data-base which in turn will resource our Network.
2. To raise the consciousness of the Church at large about the issues of Urbanisation and globalisation.
3. To concern ourselves with the needs and gifts of the urban poor.
4. To consider the interrelated processes of urbanisation and globalisation.
5. To consider how these processes shape people.
6. To consider urban mission: what is it? how better to do it in our various contexts.
7. To ask what an urban reading of the Bible will look like.
8. To help one another know where we go for the best literature & information.
9. To consider such factors and dislocation of people, and youth culture etc.
10. To remain aware of the sheer scale of the urban - e.g. mega-cities of Asia attract people who thus far have only known deep rurality - the shock is overwhelming.

A Possible Methodology: initial thoughts -

Start with analysis. We will need to search the literature, both sociological and theological, which is now substantial. Sharing this learning with our own insights and experience to discern what the urban processes are and how they manifest themselves in our various contexts. What are the distinctive features of and factors in urbanisation? - including study of globalisation and localisation and also technological advances. With this clarity, then to share our mission responses and mission models, so that we can be clear how the responses do or do not make sense. We will want to concern ourselves with traditional models and with models that go far beyond parochial and even church based thinking.

A Network:

It was noted that NIFCON (an interfaith network) required £3,000 to establish. A number of sources for equivalent funding were mentioned (St George's Windsor, ACC, etc) although it was also noted that much more substantial funding may be required for the work of the Commission itself.

A small group must now be convened in order to take these thoughts further and draw up a method - considering 'ways and means'. We will then communicate our findings for response and discussion. All interested, please be sure to leave name & address.

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