

Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization  
Younger Leaders Gathering – Malaysia 2006  
A Report by Rev. Camper Mundy

Jet-lagged but joy-full... That's how I would describe my first week back from Malaysia. The Lausanne Younger Leaders Gathering was awesome. Our days were full: plenary sessions, prayer meetings, world mission updates, strategy sessions, small groups, workshops, and informal discussions and prayer. It was basically the whole world coming together to pray and plan for reaching the whole world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am deeply grateful for the support, encouragement, and prayers of so many.

#### REFLECTIONS ON THE GATHERING

“The World is Small... The Kingdom is Big”

A hundred years ago, an international gathering like this would not have been feasible. Communication, organization, and travel would have been much more difficult. But with air travel today and the rise of the Internet over the last decade, gathering more than 500 young Christian leaders from over 110 countries for 7 days to focus on ONE mission... Let's just say, “Voila!” Further, the ease with which we can communicate and stay connected is incredible... The world is small.

At some mission conferences, the tendency is to emphasize the urgency of world evangelization to the exclusion of celebrating God's faithfulness to His promises. The need (which is great) can be stressed to the point that one starts to wonder if God is active in the mission. We may be tempted to think that we must do God's work for Him. However, at our gathering the Great Commission was upheld alongside the Great Foundation of Christ's authority and the Great Fulfillment of God's promises. We celebrated the unstoppable expansion of God's redemptive work and the joy of participating in it... The Kingdom is big.

#### THE STRATEGIC NATURE OF CANADA

“A Country of Boats, Not Birthrights”

There were ten of us invited to represent Canada at this international gathering. As we were praying through and discussing implications for our nation with regard to world evangelization, we marveled at the strategic nature of this great country in world mission. One Canadian delegate noted that Canada is “a country of boats, not birthrights.” In other words, Canada is a country of immigrants. In fact, Canada is growing in population not so much because Canadian babies are being born every year, but more because of the continual influx of immigrants... Truly, Canada is “a country of boats, not birthrights.”

These men, women, and children immigrate from all over the world. And whereas this influx is not unique to Canada, the uniqueness rests in the fact that these people maintain their cultural and ethnic identities to a degree that is lost in many other “immigrant destinations.” Another Canadian delegate pointed out that this country has such a diverse heritage, that a single “Canadian identity” is difficult to articulate. Thus, Canada is more a mosaic than a melting pot.

The implications of this reality are profound. As Christians in Canada, we have the amazing opportunity to reach the nations of the world within the borders of our own country. And many of these people groups are from hard-to-reach nations, often known as “closed countries,” where there is not freedom to explore the claims of Christ.

Well, Canada is not a closed country. We have freedom of religion. And as long as we do not succumb to the secularization that is infecting much of the West, we will continue to have this freedom *of* religion rather than facing freedom *from* religion like parts of Europe. Therefore, we must take advantage of our freedom within the context of our global diversity.

Throughout Canada, we have various international ministries focused on reaching out to immigrants as well as students from abroad. However, our ministries to these peoples often do not embrace the larger vision of world evangelization. In our disciple-making, we often do not help these men and women consider that following Jesus may entail following Him back to the lands from which they came. In other words, many of tomorrow’s missionaries to foreign lands are not just those of us with a long family history in North America... They also include indigenous peoples of those foreign countries still desperately in need of a Gospel witness. These immigrants and international students, once they understand and experience the depths of the Gospel, are most able to contextualize the Good News for their countrymen. So, as part of our outreach and disciple-making, we must exhort them to be Gospel ambassadors to their homelands by every means available.

Canada does not simply have “global cities” (those cities with great international diversity). Canada itself is a “global country.” The nations are coming to Canada, and God is calling the nations to feast at His table. Let us join Him and with the Psalmist proclaim: “May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. May the nations be glad and sing for joy” (67:3-4).

Clearly there is much more that can be said in this regard, so we must continue to pray through, explore, and act on the strategic nature of Canada in world mission.