groupe à envisager des questions fondamentales. Par exemple, le fait que l'ordinateur est devenu un nouvel agent des structures d'oppression, soit dans le domaine économique, soit dans le domaine des libertés politiques, soit dans le système de l'information en général. Même dans les relations entre Églises, l'ordinateur ne fonctionne guère que d'un seul côté. Le partage de l'information entre Églises doit donc devenir l'un de nos objectifs prioritaires.

Conclusion; trois remarques

Le temps dont nous disposions à Paris était trop court. Personnellement, et pour traiter les choses plus à fond, j'aurais préféré que nous examinions soit l'informatisation de la bibliographie, soit la constitution de banques de données informatisées. Cependant, en positif, une rencontre œcuménique discutant d'instruments pour l'étude de la mission, me semble une démarche assez significative pour l'avenir. Enfin, la diversité des participants réunis à Paris correspondait bien à la tâche de IAMS: rassembler cette diversité œcuménique pour en faire travailler ensemble les représentants, en vue d'un meilleur service de la mission.

The seeds planted during the Paris Workshop and referred to in this Report by Professor Lévesque are not all growing at the same speed .......... in this number of Mission Studies there is an important update on co-operation in the use of computers for cataloguing (§ 3, b above). In the next number of Mission Studies we shall be reporting on special discussions during the Rome meeting on the Thesaurus question (§ 3m, c above). The full report of the Paris meeting was published in Mission Studies No. 8 (1987) pp. 71-84.

Projected Media in Mission Archives and Documentations

Norman E. Thomas

A NEW AGE

In 1978 government leaders in Mexico, concerned about their high birth rate, decided on a new approach to family planning. Printed pamphlets and posters, lectures and clinic counseling, -- all had had little impact. Could television be used to promote positive community values? The Mexican Broadcasting Corporation and the World Population Institute decided to try a new approach. In the next 26 week series of the most popular TV drama the heroine would go to a family planning clinic and adopt measures to limit the size of her family. The results exceeded all predictions, as 200,000 additional Mexican mothers enrolled in family planning programs during the weeks of the broadcasts.
Educators in Nigeria recognize that there are large numbers of illiterates in their population, as in most developing countries. Universal free primary education is at present an unobtainable goal. Many women never attend school. Others drop out early due to poverty or family responsibilities and join the growing ranks of the "functionally illiterate". In this situation radio is the medium of choice for adult education. Even a Fulani herdsman hangs a radio on his shoulders as he tends his flock or herd in rural northern Nigeria. Recognizing this reality, a Nigerian educator believes that "radio can be used to create an awareness and interest in new ideas and new ways of doing things.", and for group education. (2)

Consider also modernisation trends in the Peoples Republic of China. Even though radio is China's most important electronic mass communications medium, television is gaining in importance by leaps and bounds. Want to learn English as a second language? A TV course, broadcast 30 minutes each day, is open to everyone and is China's most popular television course. As it is the case in other societies, television is extremely popular. Communications specialists agree that it is just a matter of time before TV becomes China's primary mass communication medium."

My argument is as follows:

1. We live in the age of the information revolution.

2. Electronic media have replaced print media as the most

1. The Information Revolution

Thirty years ago a Canadian economic historian, Harold A. Innis, pioneered in examining the effects of media on human activity. His star pupil is better known. In the mid 20th century Marshall McLuhan startled and inspired the intellectual world with his ideas that media are more important than the messages they carry. This "medium is the message," he declared.

McLuhan suggested that human history can be divided into three great stages according to the dominant medium of the time.

The first was the pre-alphabet, pre-written language age. Persons knew only what they could see and hear in their immediate environment. Each person's world was small, intimate, and governed by group emotions of the moment -- a world of mystery and communal participation.

The second was the age of literacy. It commenced with the development of the alphabet, forcing people to think in logical terms. The impact of written communication upon beliefs and values accelerated with the advent of printing. McLuhan's mentor, Innis, had noted that the Protestant Reformation followed soon after the printing of the Bible. A prominent journalist, at the 500th anniversary celebration of Martin Luther's birth in 1983, called him "the first great life bound up with mass communication (for) Luther showed how the tangible (a new technology, printing) can shape the intangible (the idea of an institutional church. (3)