iv. causes inter-faith (inter-community) conflict; in some places minority groups will feel their identity and integrity under severe threat;

v. often bound up with conservative, reactionary political agendas.

6. The motivation for Christian evangelism:

i. Indebtedness to grace. The meaning of grace and the death of Christ. The meaning of justification by grace alone.

ii. The scandal of particularity.


iv. The sharing of good news. The death of Christ at the center of faith. Raising the question of truth.

7. Issues in Christian evangelism:

i. conversion and culture;

ii. continuity and discontinuity;

iii. proclamation and practice.

8. The test-case: evangelism and the Jewish community.

Reasons for not evangelizing Jews:

i. God's unique covenant with the Jewish people;

ii. The Holocaust - evangelism implies discrimination, and could be considered a manifestation of anti-Semitism.

Reasons why evangelism among Jews is legitimate.

9. The means of evangelism.

These have to be wholly consistent with the Gospel itself.

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Workshop III

Mission and Ideologies: Confronting the Idols

The political and economic union in Europe will have consequences for the rest of the world, including the Pacific. There is concern amongst Pacific countries that changed security provision following the end of the cold war
will cause the US to continue withdrawal from Asia/Pacific and leave behind a troubling vacuum. This vacuum is made up largely of sea. The earth's land surface, if placed in the Pacific, will only cover 80% of this vast ocean. The Pacific peoples' identity is so closely linked with the land and sea that to understand Pacific culture we need to have a positive doctrine of creation.

Traditionally, Christian theology and Western thinking puts human beings, especially, men at the center of the created order and men have had power to dominate creation. This thought form is alien to Asian/Pacific and other indigenous peoples of the world.

For Pacific people, culture as a component of their identity is important. Culture here means that which holds the community together and giving a common framework or meaning and it is presented in language through patterns and ways of life, attitudes and symbols. Culture is also celebrated in art, music, dance and literature.

The issues to be dealt with include militarization, national security based on nuclear power, racism and nationalism, and ethnicity as a base for identity. All these issues pose challenges to the mission of the Church in the Pacific and, in turn, the Pacific churches are beginning to become aware of them as mission issues to which they need to relate the proclamation of the Gospel.

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We can also consider the question on mission and ideologies under this other formula: The church mission, destroys or creates idols. Because the Christian message is, in its explicit contents, clearly directed to the end of liberating human beings from the idolatric powers that disseminate death (1 Th 1:9-10). But, as we analyze the history of missions we cannot ignore the fact that in various ways this call for freedom has been transformed into new forms of domination, in the vehicle of oppressive powers.

The explicit "anti-idolatric" Gospel we believe in, has lend itself to be undermined by the implicit idolatric and ideological practices of Christians and churches. As we move in a world structured by conflicting powers, in which all human relations are conditioned by this game, and beliefs play a significant role in it, we cannot avoid being burdened by the same contradictions.

Concrete political forces, economic powers, national, class or sectorial interests and cultural allegiances project themselves in every human activity, conditioning our action and understanding. Persons and peoples identify themselves and others with and through images in which the particular pattern of these are portrayed in its own social setting. They are molded according to each particular experience and location. As these images are entrusted with the hopes and frustrations of the people, with their fears and distress, ambitions and possibilities, they seem to become alive and acquire the attributes of power.