

pray that you take this seriously in this conference especially when you lay your needs before the Lord.

Another thought about being filled: this word is in the passive voice. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not something we achieve. It is a gift that God gives to us. Being filled in the Spirit is not only in the passive voice, but it is also in the present tense. You and I must be filled with the Holy Spirit continually. We cannot say, "Oh yes, just a month ago I was filled with the Holy Spirit." We must be filled continuously. We believe in the whole gospel. Evangelism is engaging in power encounters. We understand that the first word Christ Jesus gave his disciples was this: "Wait until you will be endowed with the power on high." He foretold about the Holy Spirit's coming. Dear friends and co-workers, I pray that you listen earnestly to the word of St. Paul, "But be filled with the Spirit." (Eph.5:18)

Pray that all of us who are serious about evangelism may be filled with the Holy Spirit at this conference. Remember when the disciples gathered and prayed, they were filled with the Spirit, then the word was proclaimed boldly (Acts 4:30,31) May this happen among us.

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ASIA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON EVANGELISM : ALCOE III

Dr Saphir Athyal

This is a leadership conference. Now someone will ask why Asia leadership conference? Why don't we say Asia Servanthood Conference? We do not wish to presume ourselves as being the leaders of Asia, but desire to see ourselves as active leaders or servants of Christ, servant leaders who strive hard to reflect Christ in our evangelism activities. This is the whole aim of a conference of this sort.

The first Asian conference was held in 1978, the second one was held in 1987, and this is the third conference. We have a very long history. Some of the leaders who were involved from the beginning in ALCOE and ALCWE were Akira Hatori from Japan, Soon Chi Kan, the very venerated leader from Korea, Philip Teng a great man of the Chinese world, Bishop Chandu Ray who was the Coordinator for South Asia and Pacific Congress in Singapore, Ben Wati from South Asia. A few of us, such as John Cho, James Wong, and myself were youngsters at that time. We have a long history, linked up, to an extent, with the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelisation.

I want to make a clarification because a lot of questions have come up. The Lausanne Committee, which is an International Committee, is made up of about 80 people. It has one department called the Asia Region Committee. This Committee usually meets during the business session of the Lausanne Committee much like our ad-hoc sub-groups such as for North East Asia, South East Asia, South Asia and so forth. But the question persists in the relationship between Lausanne Committee for World Evangelisation and that of the Asia Lausanne Committee for World Evangelisation. These are two different entities. The Lausanne movement from the beginning organised, in different parts of the world, committees and fellowships in the name of or under the umbrella name of Lausanne. For example, we have a North American Lausanne Committee that has broader objectives and whose scope is also broader than that of the Lausanne Committee.

We have an European Lausanne Committee that is a separate entity. Some of its members are made up of the Lausanne Committee but it is much broader. So even though our name includes the word Lausanne, we are separate from the Lausanne Committee. In fact, for many years after we organised this ALCWE, the name was "The Asia Committee for World Evangelisation." The word Lausanne was introduced only at a later stage.

Operating funds needed (and we have few funds), must be used wisely, and we need to make extra effort to raise more. A conference such as this has high costs. Let me also point out that we have not received any funds from the Lausanne International Committee. We have raised our own money, and, in a very humble way, we provided some financial help to the International Lausanne Committee.

We are from different parts of Asia and from outside it; we have come together for ALCOE III. We have great diversity among us in terms of language, culture, background, geographical areas, denominations, but we are of one heart because this conference is about evangelisation. The cause of Christ. This is what unites us.

We have a unity in which there is a diversity. The sign that you find hanging above us is the emblem of Indonesia and it has written on it: Unity In Diversity. Interestingly enough, I could read the emblem because of my Sanskrit knowledge. Indonesia with thousands of islands shows that unity. As with panchshila and the believe in one God, it is very important that our unity depends upon our commitment to our one God.

What are our expectations for this ALCOE III? First of all, we want to worship God, praise God, adore him, and glorify him. We want to pray together. And that is why God has raised a movement of prayer among us. Also we want to be inspired. Any conference like this is a time for inspiration, or receiving a new vision or renewing our vision for Asia. However, we cannot get a new vision for Asia unless we look at Asia today. When Petrus Octavianus talked to us, he told us that we must look at Asia through the eyes of Jesus. Then we will see Asia with a broken heart, a burden, and pain. We are here to be broken, to look at Asia in a new way through the eyes of

Jesus which may be filled with the tears, with the increasing problems of our great continent. Let us take this opportunity to spend time with people from other countries and nations and learn what God is doing in Asia.

Also, we are here to plan, to plan some course of action, to take some new steps, perhaps some risky steps, and take some united steps. Let some of these steps be with a broad vision and build toward it. We have three fairly long regional groups meetings, about four and a half hours. This is a big chunk of our time. Let us plan some of the actions for the next three years and five years.

So it is my prayer that we will listen to each other and listen to God. Our programme is not greatly structured. We haven't made detailed plans for the conference, and I also know that some of the highlights of the conferences will come from outside of what is planned. It is our prayer that God will do something fantastic, something unexpected. And he will, if we pray and if we wait. May God bless us.

Dr. Saphir Athyal was the Principal of the Union Biblical Seminary at Pune in India. After spending several years in the United States, he and his family returned to India to continue teaching at the Seminary. Recently he has been appointed as the Director of Evangelism by World Vision International, but as he will be travelling in Asia, we will not lose him.